WOMBS ウームズ 白井弓子 2

WOMBS vol.2
Yumiko Shirai
presents

WOMBS ウームズ 2 白井弓子

WOMBS vol.2
Yumiko Shirai
presents

IKKI COMIX
小学館
IKKICOMIX

歪な月が照らし出す碧玉星。
現地生物ユーバスの体組織を
子宮に移植し転送兵となった
マナ・オーダ。初めての実戦へと
投入される。空間を"飛ぶ"
能力である転送を武器とし、
最基地を急襲、転送兵にしか
できない戦争を経験するが、
その身には異変が生じ始めて
いた。見つめる宿舎の視線、
様々な思惑が交錯する――

ISBN978-4-09-188539-5
C9979 ¥648E
定価：本体648円＋税
雑誌 45905-39 小学館
1929979006488

IKKICOMIX

［ドロヘドロ］ 第1～15巻 林田球
［金魚屋古書店］ 第1～11巻 今崎せいむ
［ディエンビエンフー］ 第1～8巻 吉島大介
［土星マンション］ 第1～6巻 岩岡ヒサエ
［放課後のカリスマ］ 第1～2巻 スエカネクミコ
［俺はまだ本気出していだけ］ 第1～4巻 吉野泰秋
［海獣の子供］ 第1～4巻 五十嵐大介
［SARU］ 全2巻 五十嵐大介
［period］ 第1～4巻 吉野朋美
［青春ポソパット］ 第1～3巻 黒鉄さかき
［阿房列車］ 1～2巻 内田百閒 & 一條裕子
［ちょこらん］ 第1～2巻 にしがおひろゆき
［セックスなんか興味ない］ 第1～2巻 ラリネネネットワケンキ
［莉・秋子の刑］ 第1～2巻 はまふかのこ
［WOMBS］ 第1～2巻 白井弓子
［事実］ 上・中巻 中村珍
［ストラトト！］ 第1巻 中川いさみ
［よるくも］ 第1巻 池辺ミチ
［高梨さん］ 太田基之
［シャンハイチャーリー］ ビブオ
［ビューティフロ～ブルーパーフェクトワールド］ 全1巻 坂井恵理
［必要とされなかった話］ 全1巻 三友信平
［ブランコ］ 全6巻 ウメスト・ボンニミット
［さらい屋 五葉］ 全8巻 オノ・ナツメ
［ワイルド マウンテン］ 全8巻 本宮ひろ志
［ぼくらの］ 全11巻 鬼頭莫宏
［フリージア］ 全12巻 松本次郎

WOMBS
ウームズ
白井弓子
2
WOMBS vol.2
umiko Shirai
presents
IKKI COMIX
小学館
IKKI 539

WOMBS

ウームズ 2

WOMBS vol.2

Yumiko Shirai presents

白井弓子

C O N T E N T S

CHAPTER 9: AAT [10 WEEKS] ——— 005

CHAPTER 10: THE ONE WHO POINTS [11 WEEKS] — 033

CHAPTER 11: RED-HAIRED ONE [11 WEEKS] ——— 061

CHAPTER 12: BEFORE THE STORM [12 WEEKS] — 089

CHAPTER 13: RETREAT [14 WEEKS] ——— 117

CHAPTER 14: BLACKOUT [14 WEEKS] ——— 145

CHAPTER 15: ARTIFICIAL WOMB [15 WEEKS] ——— 175

CHAPTER 16: DECISION [15 WEEKS] ——— 203

SPECIAL TRANSFER CORPS DATA FILE ——— 232

CHAPTER 9: AAT [10 WEEKS]

ALL FOR THIS DAY...

2

IS EVERYONE READY!?

YES, SERGEANT!

T-B-A-A-A-A-A-A-O, THEN WITHDRAW!

TEAM A!

CON-FIRMING FORMA-TIONS!

T-B-A-A-A-A-A-A-O, THEN WITHDRAW!

TEAM B!

T-B-A-A-A-A-A-O!

TEAM C!

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO DO EXACTLY AS YOU DID DURING DRILLS.

GOOD.

MAY THE MOON PROTECT US.

ONCE THE "DRIVE" IS COMPLETE, WE'LL RENDEZVOUS BACK HERE.

.....

MAY THE MOON PROTECT US.

MAY THE MOON PROTECT US.

5

MARTHA, I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

DON'T TEMPT BAD LUCK NOW.

IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU, I DON'T KNOW HOW I'D BREAK THE NEWS TO ROGE WHO AGREED TO LEND YOU TO ME FOR THIS OPERATION.

M-

MAY THE MOON PROTECT US...

ぱん ぱん

OHH, I GUESS DOING IT THAT WAY WON'T BUMP YOUR BELLIES.

THANK YOU, CORPORAL MARTHA.

I CONSIDER IT AN HONOUR TO PARTICIPATE IN AN AAT WITH THE FAMOUS SGT. ARMEA.

LET'S MOVE, FNGs.

NO THANKS.

I HAVE TO LIVE UP TO EXPECTA-TIONS NO MATTER WHAT...

HURRY UP!

?

YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE "SENSATIONAL" EXPERIENCE WAITING AHEAD OF YOU.

CAN YOU SEE IT, CORPORAL MAUN?

I'M IN THE COORDI-NATE SPACE.

YES, CHIEF

I'M SEEING IMAGES,

OF NECTAR BAT SPIRITS OF LONG AGO.

THE ACCESS POINT IS NOW OPEN.

……

IN, IN,

OUT...

Y-YES, SIR!

MANA OGA.

REMEMBER YOUR COMBAT BREATHING.

YOUR TRANSFER ORGAN NEEDS MORE OXYGEN.

WHOO, WHOO,

HAA...

Message to each team's driver.

WHOO, WHOO,

HAA...

WHOO, WHOO,

HAA...

You are to move according to Sgt. Armea's signal.

WILCO.

WILCO.

Sgt. Armea,

There's an obstruction intruding at the exit point.

Please wait until it clears the area.

WHOO, WHOO,

HAA...

Time won't be an issue.

The moon is still-

WHOO, WHOO,

HAA...

NO,

WHOO, WHOO,

HAA...

NOW'S THE TIME.

TEAM A:
TARGET POINT
ARRIVAL AT 19:02
SUBSEQUENT
DEPARTURE IN
0.1 SECONDS.

TEAM B:
TARGET POINT
ARRIVAL AT 19.03.
SUBSEQUENT
DEPARTURE IN
0.2 SECONDS.

BEEP!
BEEP!
BEEP!
TEAM C:
TARGET POINT
ARRIVAL AT 19:04
SUBSEQUENT
DEPARTURE IN
0.2 SECONDS.
THERE'S BLURRING TO THE EAST!
THEY'RE ARRIVING AT THE ENEMY BASE.
ALL TEAMS ARE MOVING OUT!
14
ENEMY BASE'S ELECTRO-MAGNETIC AREA IS ACTIVATING!
CLEAR OVER IT!
IT'S ALL IN THEIR HANDS NOW THAT THE OPERATION'S BEGUN.

UGH-

TEAM C:
PHASE 4
CLEARED

TEAM B:
PHASE 4
CLEARED

BUT THE INTENSITY OF THESE SIGNALS IS JUST...

I'M AT MY LIMIT JUST TRYING TO MAINTAIN THIS COORDINATE SPACE,

THERE ISN'T EVEN ANY TIME TO FIX UP OUR FORMATION!

DAMN IT!

AGH—

I EXPECTED THIS, BUT...

I KNEW THIS...

LISTEN UP.

DURING THE ACTUAL THING, YOU'LL BE RECEIVING MUCH STRONGER SIGNALS THAN THE ONES YOU'RE USED TO.

I'M SCARED...

Relative JUMPS

TAP

Point

Return

THE SYNCHRONIZED SIGNALS USED BY EACH TEAM WILL BE MADE STRONGER AS WELL.

IN PROPORTION TO THAT ENERGY,

TO FUEL THE SUCCESSIVE JUMPS FROM POINT TO POINT DURING THE AAT OPERATION,

YOU'LL BE BURNING UP YOUR IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS TO CONVERT INTO ENERGY.

WILL BE PARTICULARLY UNPLEASANT TO SAY THE LEAST.

Relative jumps

Point

ESPECIALLY DURING YOUR LAST JUMP, THE SIGNAL EMITTED BY THE NANOMACHINE IN YOUR BRAIN,

SO DON'T BLAME ME FOR MERELY PUSHING THE SWITCH.

BUT THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.

BLAME THE SECONDS INSTEAD.

20

HUFF

HUFF

AGHH-

HUFF

STOP SCREAMING, MANA OGA!

MISSION COMPLETE!

.....

GOOD JOB!

THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS!

AH...

WE'RE BACK...

.....

OH GOOD.

NO INTERNAL HEMOR-RHAGE. JUST SOME MINOR INCONTIN-ENCE.

!

Check your own damn shit if you want to so much!

OH, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBAR-RASED ABOUT.

THE NEURAL SIGNALS DURING AAT CAN BE QUITE EXTREME.

UMM...

LET ME CHECK YOUR INNER SUIT SENSOR.

NO NEED!

PLEASE, SGT...

HELP THIS ONE.

ガラ

OH...

SO IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL TO HAVE FELT SCARED.

IT WAS THE NANOMACHINE TRIGGERING YOUR BODY INTO A STATE OF FEAR,

EVEN HALF OF THOSE GIRLS,

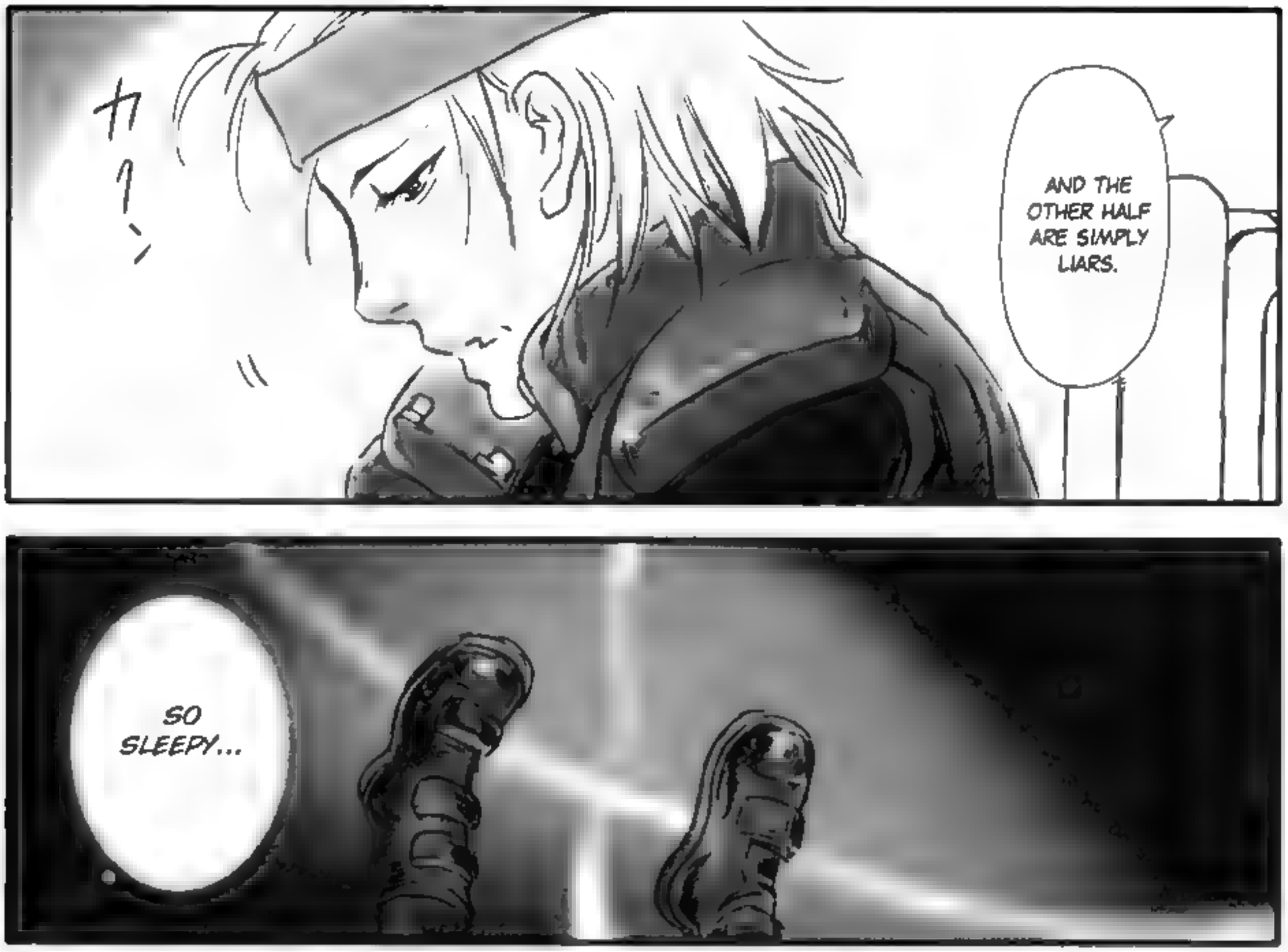
WET THEMSELVES DURING THEIR FIRST TIME.

HA!

NICE ONE, FNG!

IT WAS A PRETTY THRILLING FLIGHT THANKS TO YOU.

OUR BRAINS ARE ALREADY LONG USED TO IT


AND THE OTHER HALF ARE SIMPLY LIARS.
SO SLEEPY...
AFTER BEING SHAKEN UP FOR ONLY A FEW SECONDS?
AM I REALLY THIS TIRED,
THERE?
"THERE..."
AFTER ONLY A BUMPY FLIGHT LASTING A FEW SECONDS?

"TO THERE..."

ALL TARGET OBJECTIVES SUP-PRESSED IN A FLASH.

STILL, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THAT ACCESS POINT FALLS INTO THEIR HANDS...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW AN AAT OPERATION GO THAT SMOOTHLY.

SPLENDID!

WE CAN SECURE THE POINT THIS TIME FOR SURE!

GIVE ME PERMISSION TO SEND MORE DESCENT SQUADS!

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT.

THERE'S AN ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US COMPARED TO THAT FOR THE SECONDS.

OH REALLY? AND WHAT DID THAT STRATEGY LEAD TO JUST 2 WEEKS AGO?

A VALIANT STRUGGLE AND MORE CASUALTIES?

W-WHAT DID YOU-

YOU'RE SPEAKING OUT OF LINE. THAT WAS A NECES-SARY OPER-ATION.

EVEN IF OUR WAR-WAGING CAPABILITY IS INFERIOR,

THE LONE ADVANTAGE WE HAVE IS THAT WE CAN STRIKE ANY PLACE ON THIS PLANET IF WE TRULY WISHED TO DO SO.

REMINDING THEM THAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY OTHER OBJECTIVE.

HAST

26

BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY WAY,

WE'LL GAIN ENOUGH BARGAINING POWER TO FORCE A FAVOURABLE PEACE TREATY,

THAT'S BEEN UNDER NEGOTIATION AT THE PAN-HUMAN ALLIANCE HQ FOR SO LONG.

THEY'LL ALWAYS BE WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO MOUNT AN ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE.

UNLESS WE DELIVER A DECISIVE BLOW TO THE SECONDS,

I WOULDN'T PLACE MY HOPES ON THAT.

.....

NO,

THE CASE OF AN ALL-OUT NUCLEAR EXCHANGE USING THE TRANSFER POINTS ACROSS THE PLANET.

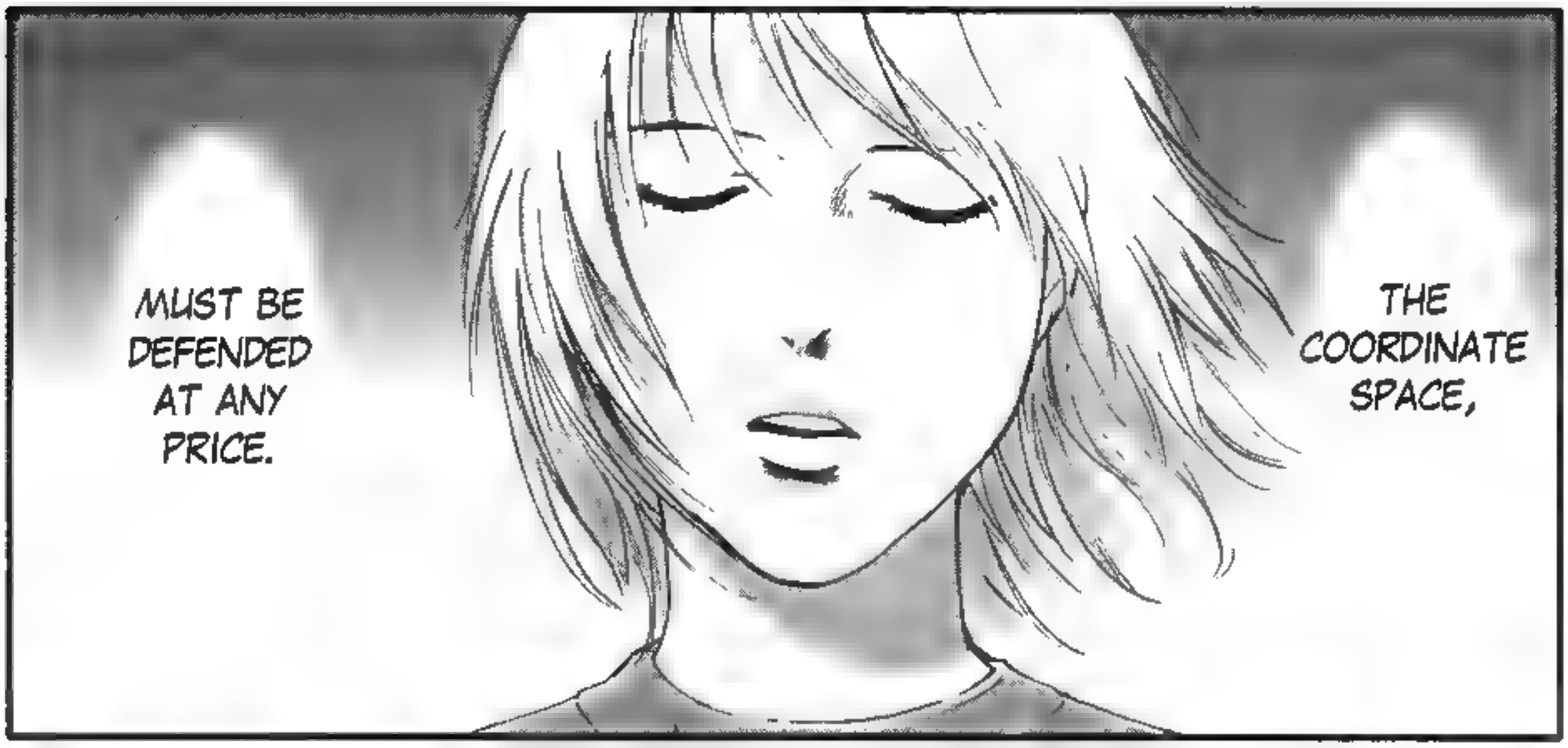
THEY'RE AFRAID OF THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO THAT MAY TRIGGER.

THAT WON'T BE LIKELY ANYTIME SOON AT LEAST...

27

THE HAST ARMED FORCES WILL NOT LOSE.

AS LONG AS THE COORDIN-ATE SPACE REMAINS UNDER OUR CONTROL,



28

CHAPTER 10 THE ONE WHO POINTS [11 WEEKS]

HALT...

.....

-LT-

2

RETURN TO WHENCE YOU CAME, BLACK DOG...!

THIS IS OUR CRIMSON TERRITORY...

ｱﾛﾝ

ｱﾛﾝ

SHE ISN'T AWAKE YET.

SHE SIMPLY WANDERED HERE INTO THE COORDIN-ATE SPACE BY ACCIDENT.

FORGIVE HER, CRIMSON GUARDIAN.

I SHALL NOT BELIEVE.

THE WORDS OF BLACK DOGS CANNOT BE BELIEVED.

THAT WAS MERELY TO CHASE OUT THE INVADERS.

SWING

DOES IT NOT BENEFIT YOUR KIND AS WELL TO SEE THE INVADERS GONE?

UPON THE CRIMSON FOREST.

GRR?

YOU HAVE TRESPASSED UPON OUR DOMAIN ONCE AGAIN.

RETURN, BLACK DOGS.

.....

6

THE NIEBASS.

!

WHO...?

ゆう…

YES, YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME TWICE.

AGHH-

SILENCE!

GO BACK AT ONCE!

THIS CHILD CAN BARELY DO ANY-THING.

SEE?

AND MY ARM!

.....

M-

MY LEGS...

YES, YES, YOU PAPER DOLL.

REPORT TO DR. HERMAN'S ROOM.

NOW!

AH...

MAN, YOU'RE A PAIN...

CORPORAL MALIN!?

?

?

AND DON'T BE LATE FOR THE CEREMONY!

IS IT TRUE YOU PEED ALL OVER YOURSELF DURING AAT?

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU!?

I DID NOT!

WHAT IS IT, CASS?

HEY, SHEDD.

B

!

I HAD TO GO GET MY NANOMACHINE ADJUSTED FIRST THING THIS MORNING...

WHAT'S WRONG, MANA? YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD.

AND THAT THE OTHER HALF ARE SIMPLY LIARS.

I HEARD... THAT HALF THE GIRLS WET THEM-SELVES ON THEIR FIRST ATTACK MISSION.

I DIDN'T EITHER...

R-REALLY?

HEY, WE GOTTA HURRY! CEREMONY STARTS IN 5 MINUTES!

DREAMS?

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I HAVEN'T HAD ANY DREAMS FOR A WHILE...

SAME HERE...

HUH...

WHY'S IT ONLY YOU EVER HAVING PROBLEMS?

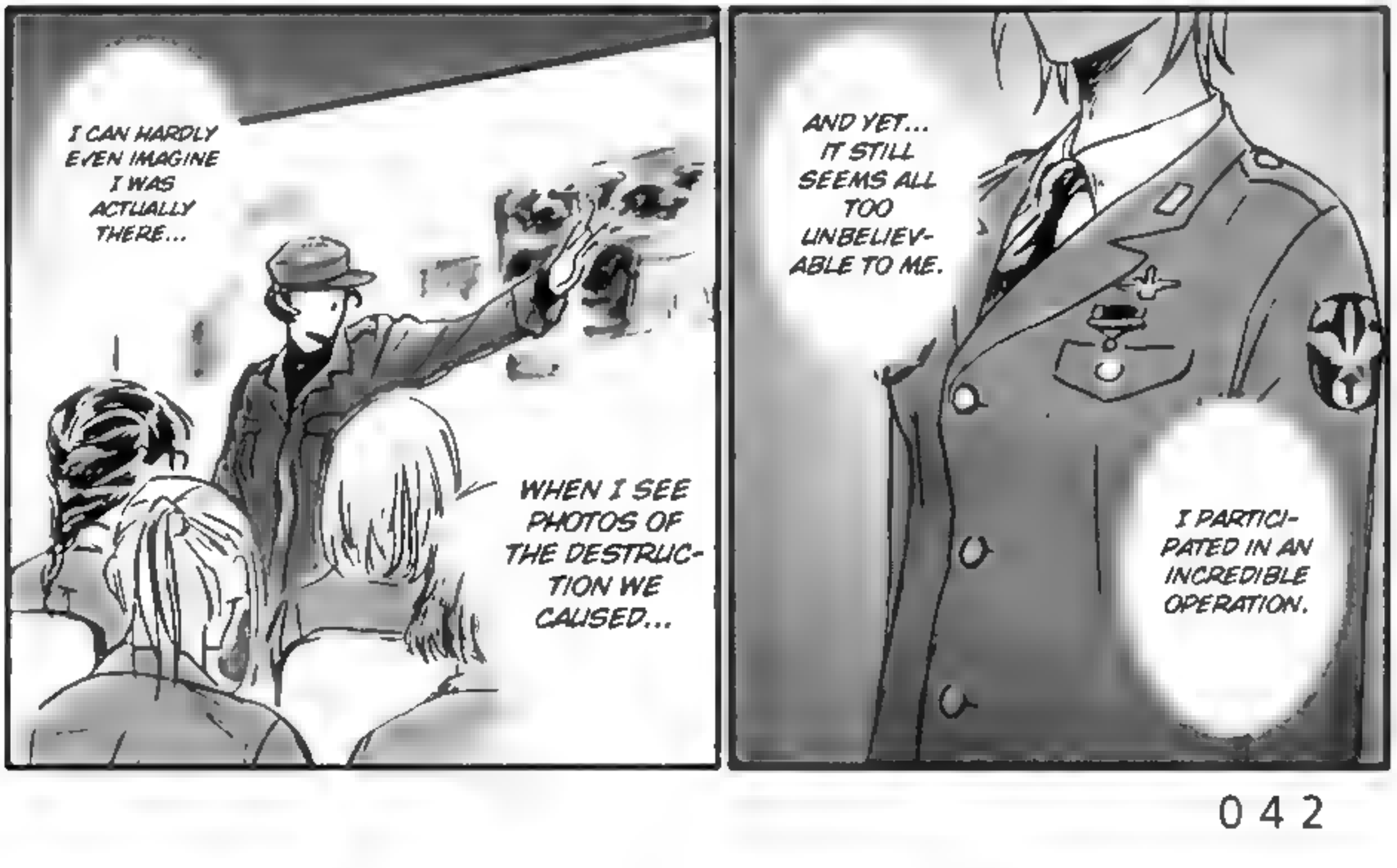
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I KEEP HAVING WEIRD DREAMS...

9

YES, SIR!

PRIVATE OGA!

.....
PRIVATE SHAYDINE!
YES, SIR!
!
THANK YOU, LT. COLONEL SAURA.
WELL DONE, PRIVATE.


I CAN HARDLY EVEN IMAGINE I WAS ACTUALLY THERE...
WHEN I SEE PHOTOS OF THE DESTRUC-TION WE CAUSED...
AND YET... IT STILL SEEMS ALL TOO UNBELIEV-ABLE TO ME.
I PARTICI-PATED IN AN INCREDIBLE OPERATION.

SHOULD BE SEVERELY REDUCED.

THANKS TO THE PLAN'S SUCCESS, THE OCCURRENCE OF DISGUISED ENEMY AIRCRAFTS INTRUDING OUR AIRSPACE,

OH...

WELL, THAT'S GOOD.

THIS MEANS THE FOLKS BACK IN YOUR HOMETOWN WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WEEDING THEIR FARMS FOR A WHILE.

SHOULDN'T YOU BE A LITTLE HAPPIER?

はっ、

ズキ

ズキ

ARE YOU LISTENING, OGA!?

BUSH

I ACTUALLY MADE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE...

R-right.

BUT I'VE WON THE RIGHT TO EAT FOR TODAY AT LEAST, DIDN'T I!?

ISN'T THAT A LITTLE TOO MUCH, MANA?

はあ

I CAN'T STOP EATING SINCE THE AAT FOR SOME REASON...

12

BEEP!

CLACK

CLACK

STIR

LOOK, THE DOCTORS WILL GET MAD AT ME IF I LET YOU GIRLS EAT TOO MUCH AND BECOME FAT.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, DIABETES, BACK PAIN... THE DOCTORS CAN'T BE DEALING WITH THAT FOR YOU TRANSFER SOLDIERS.

That's right!

You go, girl

OH COME ON! SHE RISKED HER LIFE IN AN OPER-ATION!

NO, RULES ARE RULES.

SORRY, THAT'S JUST A BIT OVER THE WEIGHT LIMIT.

AWW...

Maybe take out the cake?

CASS!?

YOU'RE A TRANSFER SOLDIER...?

!!

LI SHEN!

YOU WERE WORKING HERE!?

THE SAUCE FOR THAT SALAD'S BEEN CHANGED TO A HEALTHIER VERSION TOO.

RE-CALCU-LATE BY CALORIES INSTEAD.

.....

.....

LET'S TALK LATER.

YEAH, UMM...

WHAT ABOUT MIKE?

BUT...

MAKES SENSE THEY'D PLACE HIM AS A CHEF FOR TRANSFER SOLDIERS.

HE USED TO SERVE GOOD-TASTING BUT LOW-CALORIE DISHES AT A HOTEL BACK HOME. GUESS THAT'S WHY THE ARMY RECRUITED HIM.

LI SHEN'S A DARN GOOD COOK.

.....

HE'S NOT AS GOOD, BUT HE'S A NICE GUY WITH A HARD WORK ETHIC.

HIS CO-WORKER.

...SO WHO'S MIKE?

AND HE'S MY HUSBAND.

.....

...WE ALSO USED TO WORK TOGETHER.

RIGHT, BUT WHAT IS HE TO YOU?

WELL?

OH, BE QUIET...

YOU'RE MARRIED!?

.....

ISN'T THAT HOW IT USUALLY IS?

THE FUCK DID YOU SAY JUST NOW?

DRAFT DODGING?

!

THEY JUST MARRY SOME GUY THEY DON'T EVEN PARTICULARLY LIKE JUST SO THEY WON'T BE RECRUITED FOR TRANSFER SOLDIER SERVICE...

MOST 16 YEAR-OLD TEENS GETTING MARRIED AND TRYING TO HAVE KIDS FALL INTO THAT CASE.

.....

THOSE BITCHES ONLY EVER CARE FOR THEIR OWN WELL-BEING.

IF YOU WERE TO BECOME PREGNANT NOW...

THAT'S ENOUGH!

SHEDD, CUT IT OUT-

AND I'M NOT GONNA LET SOME COLD-BLOODED VIRGIN LIKE YOU INSULT THAT!

WE GOT MARRIED BECAUSE WE REALLY LOVED EACH OTHER FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS!

COLD-BLOODED VIRGIN! MAIDEN ICE-QUEEN OF PLANET HEKISEKI!

I'LL SAY IT AS MANY FUCKING TIMES AS I WANT!

SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME!

WHAT THE FUCK DID YOU CALL ME!?

STOP IT!

SHUT THE FUCK UP, FNGs!

HA, YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME!?

BRING IT ON!

LET'S SETTLE THIS OUTSIDE!

W...

...

ROUGH-HOUSING ISN'T GOOD WHEN PREGANNT.

WE'RE NOT PREGNANT!

I JUST KNEW A LOT OF GIRLS LIKE THAT BACK HOME...

SO I GOT CARRIED AWAY...

.....

SORRY.

HE WAS REALLY SICKLY AND WEAK...

HE ONLY BARELY PASSED THE PHYSICAL EXAM STANDARDS...

THANKS TO THOSE DRAFT-DODGING CUNTS,

ONE OF MY FRIENDS WAS DRAFTED TO FILL OUT THE QUOTA.

I GUESS I WAS ACTING LIKE A CUNT TOO FOR THINKING YOU WERE LIKE ONE OF'EM.

YOU'RE HERE, FIGHTING WITH THE REST OF US, AFTER ALL.

HE'S PROBABLY GOING THROUGH HELL ON SOME BATTLEFIELD RIGHT NOW.

ALL THANKS TO THOSE CUNTS.

BUT,

STOP LAGGING BEHIND!

MOVE! MOVE!

WE DID TRY TO HAVE KIDS.

BUT...

HMPH.

WELL IT'S GOOD YOU REMEMBERED THAT.

18

BUT WE FAILED.

!!

BEATS ME.

SO IS MIKE... DOING OKAY?

UMM,

TOO BAD WE CAN'T JUST FLY TO WHEREVER WE PLEASE.

.....

ON A BATTLE-SHIP SOME-WHERE.

HE'S PROBABLY BUSY MAKING HEAPS OF PASSABLE FOOD,

I'D THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GO SEE HIM EVERY NOW AND THEN IF I BECAME A TRANSFER SOLDIER...

I AM.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, ARMEA?

DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT!

WHAT, THAT PAPER DOLL?

IT'S STILL HANGING ONTO ITS FORM?

SHE ANGERED THE CRIMSON GUARDIAN!

WHAT?

I'LL ASK HERMANN TO RE-ADJUST HER NANO-MACHINE AGAIN.

YOU THINK SHE HAS TALENT FOR RECON LIKE YOU?

DISCIPLINE MANA OGA AT ONCE!

JUST THINK ABOUT IT.

SO YOU'RE GONNA REWARD HER WITH EVEN MORE HEAD-ACHES AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THE AAT?

I DON'T KNOW YET.

TALENT, HUH...

HAVEN'T YOU BEEN ABLE TO PICK OUT ALL THE TALENTED GIRLS WHILE THEY WERE ONLY ON THEIR FIRST CYCLE SO FAR?

BUT WE CAN'T JUST LET HER RUN WILD.

IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING, THEN LET ME!

I'M NOT.

I'M JUST WAITING FOR THE RIGHT TIME.

THERE'S ALWAYS A RISK OF LOSING ONE TANK.

THEN WHY'RE YOU LETTING HER BE?

IT MAY HAVE BEEN OGA'S.

I FELT A FAINT GAZE UPON ME DURING THE AAT.

.....

BUT THAT GIRL...

REMINDS ME OF ELENA MORGAN IN SOME WAYS...

MAYBE IT'S JUST ME,

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT NAME.

JUST LEAVE ME BE, SERGEANT...

I'M ONLY...

SERGEANT

ONLY...

22

COLONIST MORGAN...

HER EXECUTION WAS TRULY A GRIM AFFAIR.

.....

SHE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH OGA.

I CHECKED.

NO BLOOD-RELATION.

BY THE WAY, YOU'RE ON YOUR 4TH CYCLE, AREN'T YOU?

HOW MANY WEEKS DO YOU HAVE LEFT?

ME?

.....

I'LL HELP PATROL THE COORDINATE SPACE AS WELL.

SO JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.

THANKS. I'M SHORT ENOUGH ON HANDS AS IT IS ALREADY.

ELENA WAS A GOOD GIRL.

AN HONEST-

THAT'S ENOUGH, CHIEF MIMI.

I'M PLANNING TO ENTER MY 5TH CYCLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BUT I'M A LITTLE ANXIOUS.

DON'T STRAIN YOUR-SELF.

CORPORAL MAUN SEEMS INTENT ON CON-TINUING.

SO I'M PREPARING MYSELF RIGHT NOW.

8 WEEKS AT BEST, I GUESS.

WHEN ARE YOU PLANNING TO RETIRE?

THAT'S NOT THE LEAST BIT PERSUASIVE COMING FROM SOMEONE ON HER 5TH CYCLE.

.....

ﾌｳ

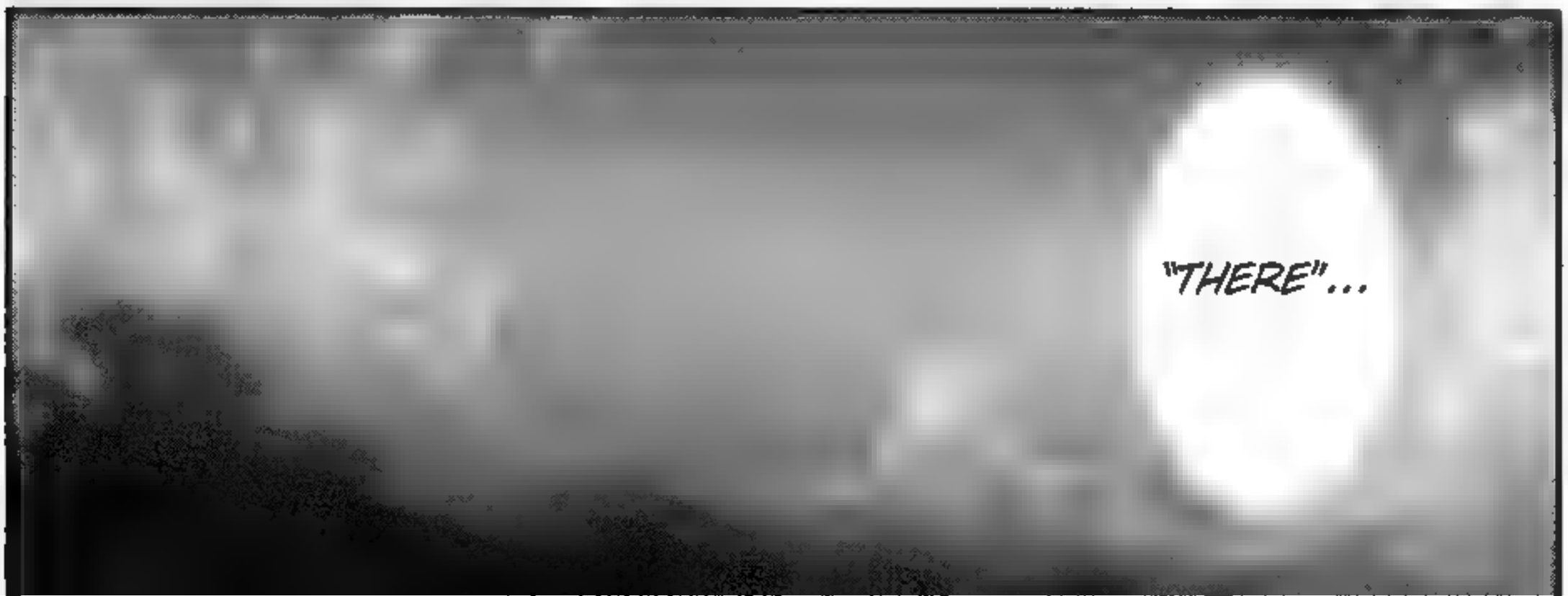
ﾐﾉｳﾞ

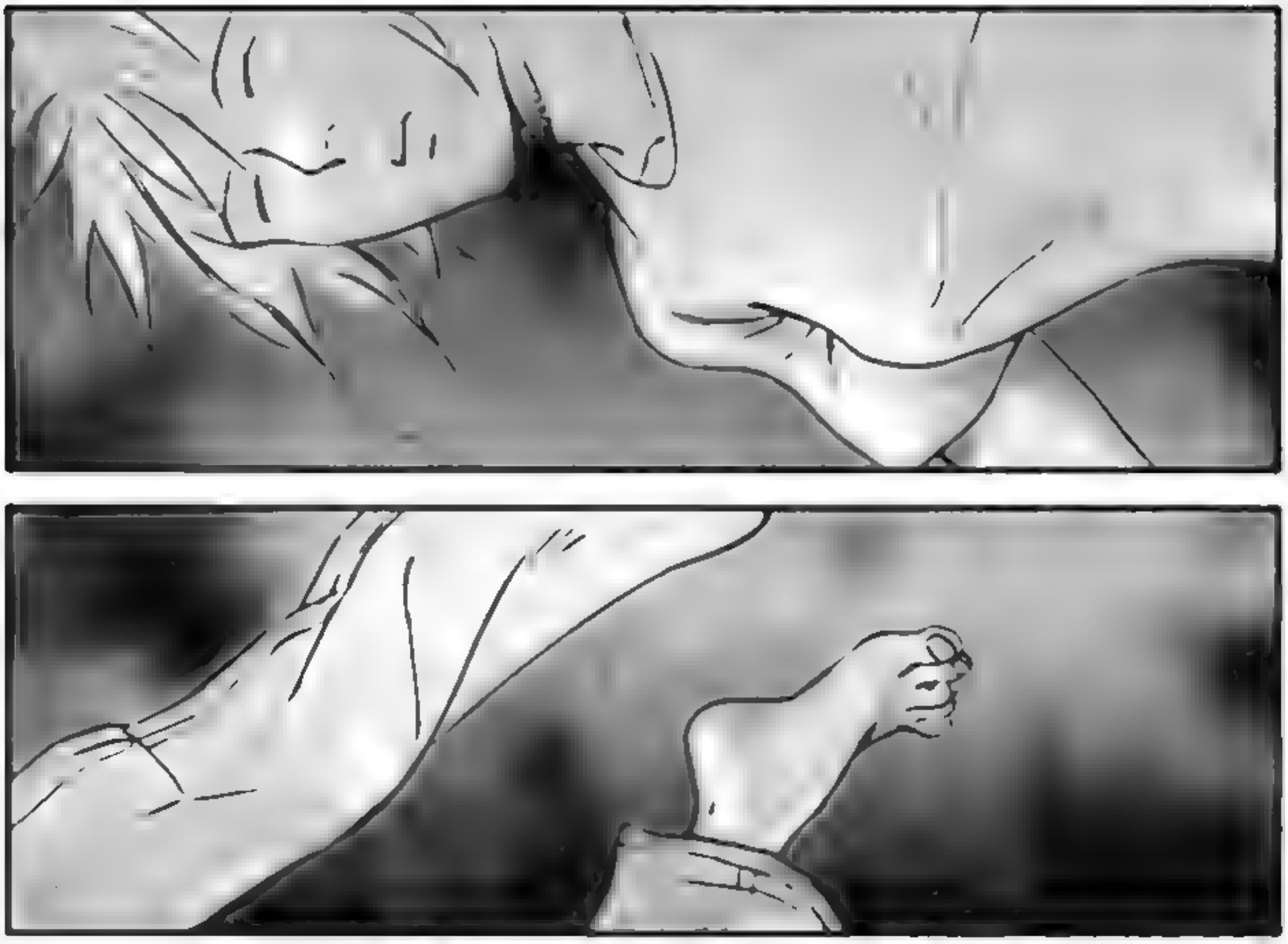
WHEN I CAN FIND SOMEONE SUITABLE TO HAND OVER THE REINS,

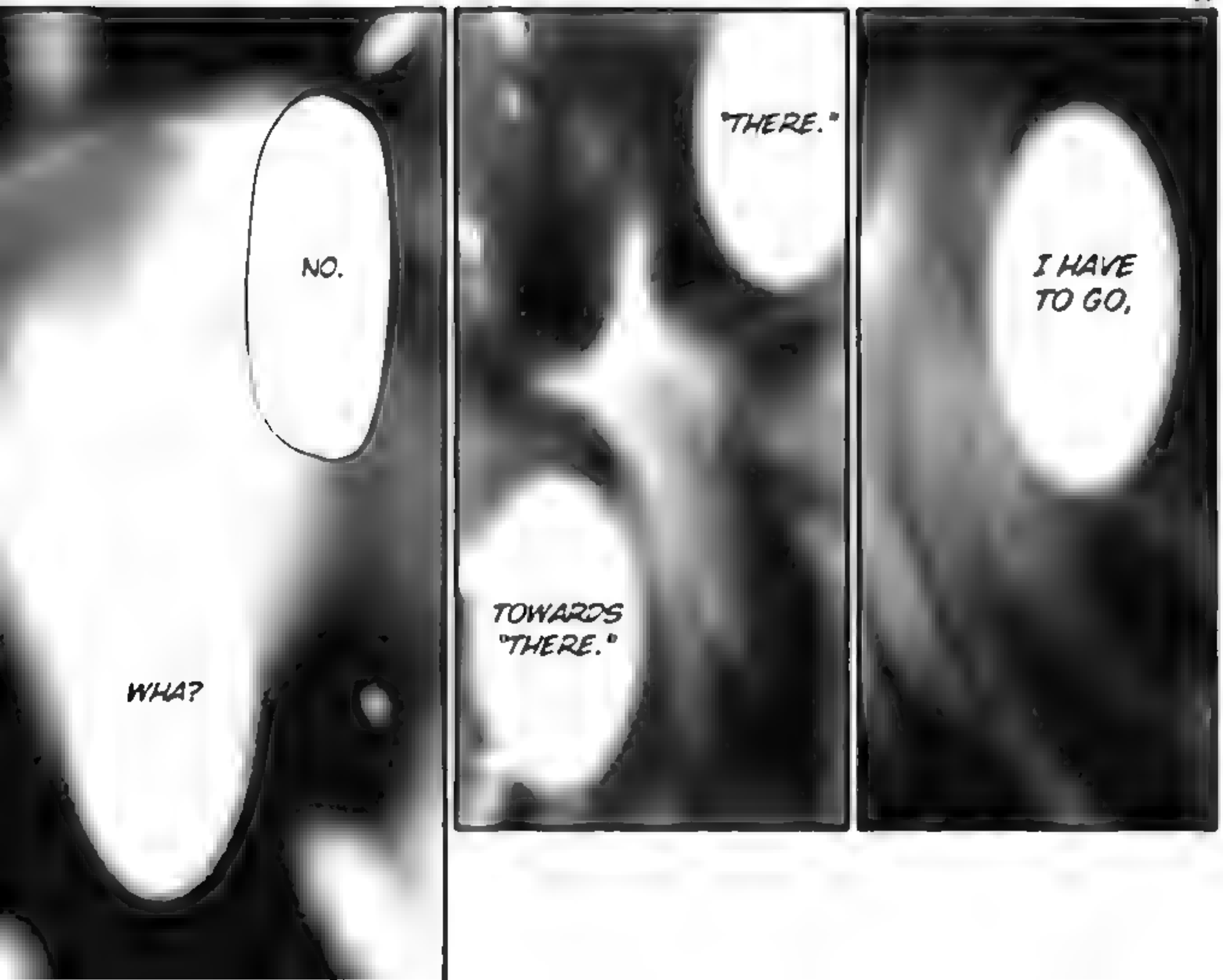
OR WHEN THIS WAR ENDS.

RIGHT?

SO NOT UNTIL A VERY LONG TIME THEN...


"THERE"...




NO.
WHA?
"THERE."
TOWARDS "THERE."
I HAVE TO GO,

WHERE IS IT YOU WISH TO GO?

I WANT TO GO SEE...

THE PEOPLE I LOVE...

ガラ

ガラ

BUT I CAN'T FIND THE BUS STOP...

7 11

TO HOME...

"THIS WAY."

YOUR NAVI-GATION SYSTEM IS PRETTY BAD, SISTER.

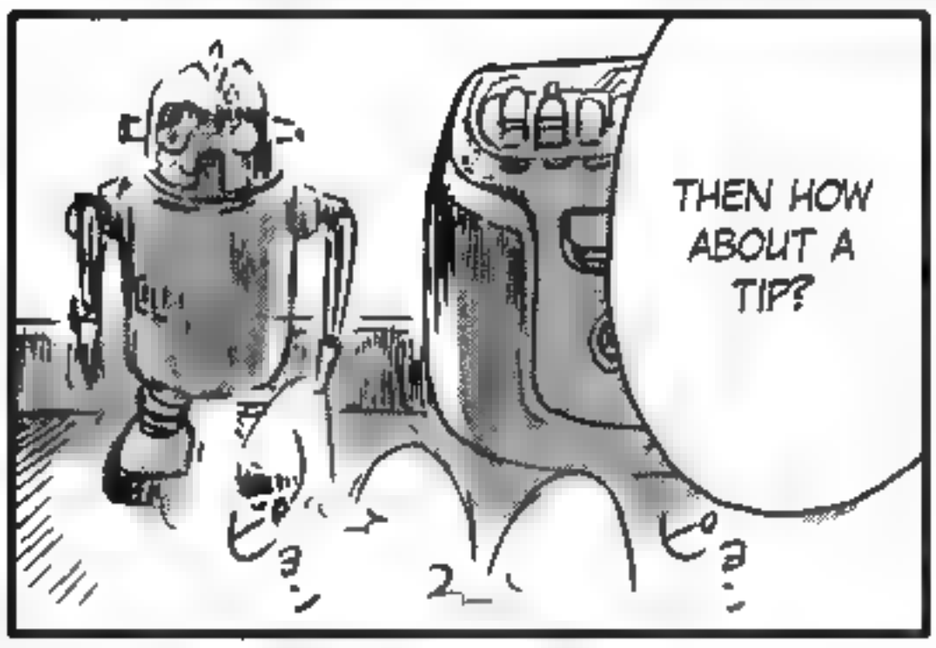
AGAIN ...?

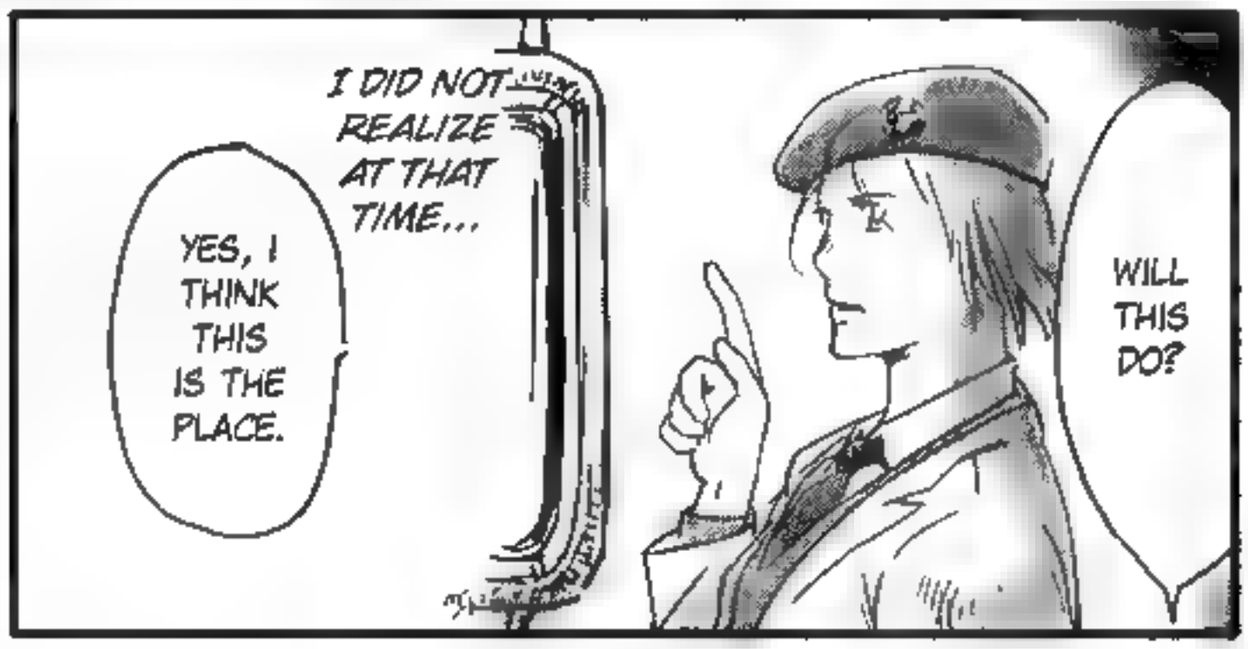
THAT'S THE CRIMSON FOREST.

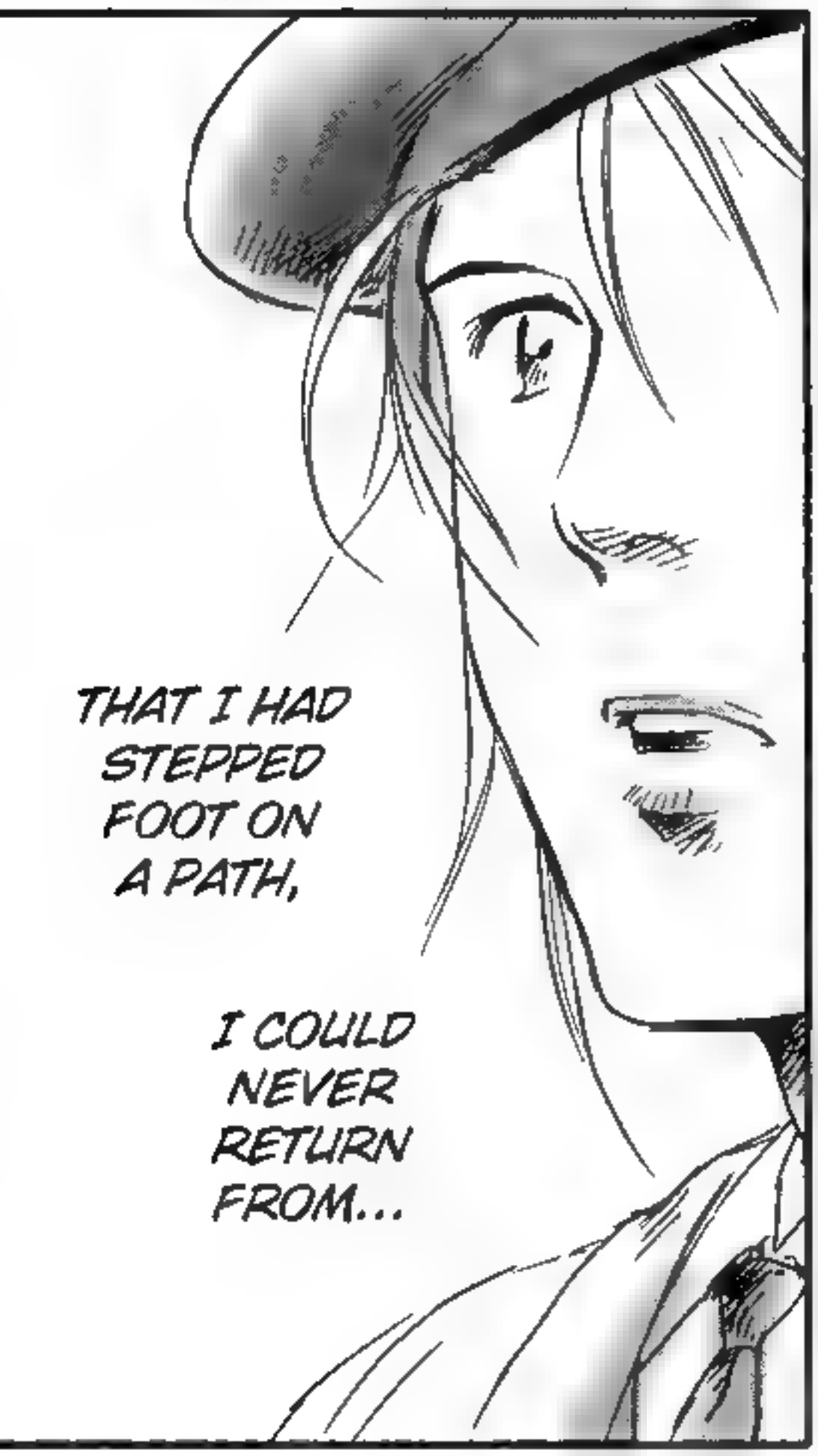
YOU'LL ONLY ANGER THE GUARDIAN AGAIN IF YOU GO THAT WAY.

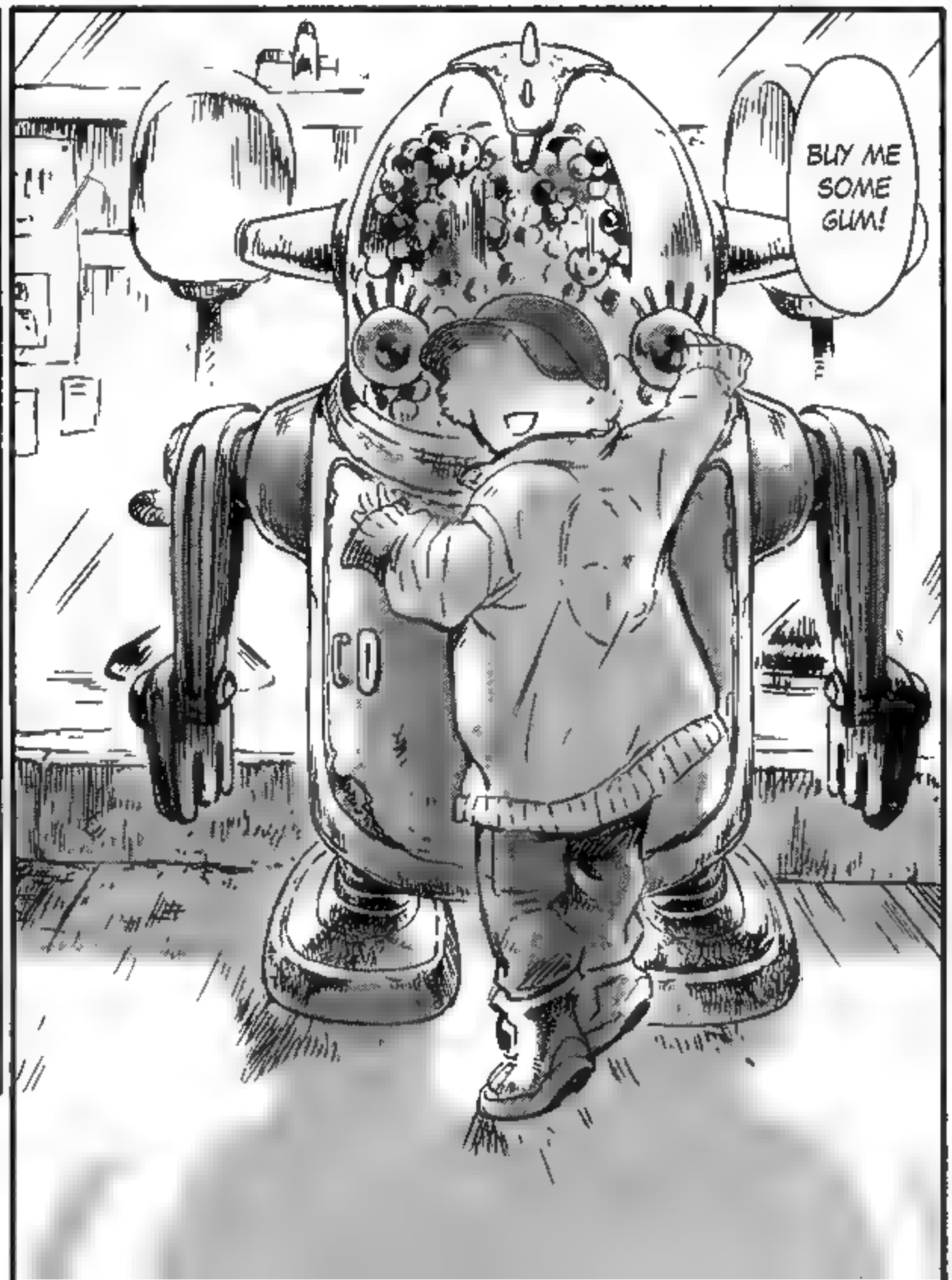
THEN THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT WAY.

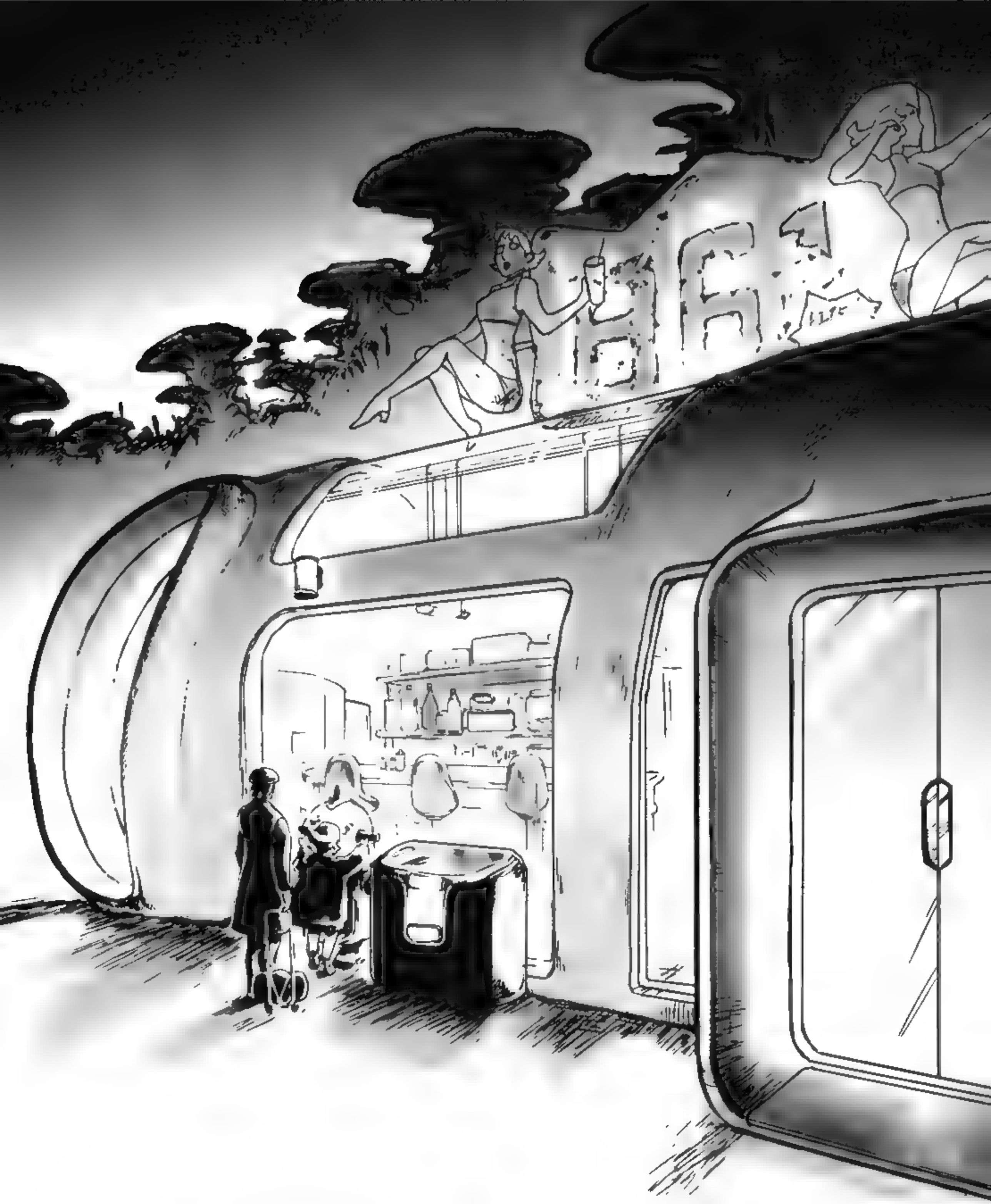
"THIS WAY."


THEN HOW ABOUT A TIP?


I DID NOT REALIZE AT THAT TIME...
YES, I THINK THIS IS THE PLACE.
WILL THIS DO?


THAT I HAD STEPPED FOOT ON A PATH,
I COULD NEVER RETURN FROM...


BUY ME SOME GUM!



CHAPTER 11 RED-HAIRED ONE [11 WEEKS]

GUM...?

OK, BUT I'M NOT SURE,

IF I HAVE ANY MONEY...

AH-

2

DON'T THINK...

JUST 10 YEARS AGO, ALL THAT USED TO BE HAST TERRI-TORY...

DON'T THINK ABOUT THE TIME I WENT TO THAT ONE TOWN JUST BEYOND THE VIRGIN FOREST ALONG THE HIGHWAY.

DON'T THINK ABOUT HOW THERE WERE GUMBALL MACHINES LIKE THIS ONE AT THE DRIVE INs ALONG THE MIDDLE HIGHWAY...

I BET KEN, MY YOUNGER BROTHER, HAS NEVER EVEN SEEN SUCH A THING BEFORE.

MY OLDER BROTHER AND I LOVED THAT GUMBALL MACHINE.

4

SORRY, BUT YOU'LL RUIN YOUR TEETH. ONE IS ENOUGH.

GIMME ONE MORE COIN!

DING-DEE-DEE-DING!

YOU'RE HOLDING ONTO IT, AREN'T YOU?

MY NAVI?

DON'T WORRY.

IT'S FOR YOUR "NAVI!"

BEEEP!

BEEP! BEEP!

WHAT THE...

!

HUH?

ドド
ドド
ドド

OGA.

RAISE BOTH YOUR ARMS ABOVE YOUR HEAD.

RAISE YOUR ARMS NOW.

NO, DON'T!

WHA-

YOUR NAVI WILL FALL!

OGA!

AND SOFT...

IT'S WARM...

6

NO, PLEASE! DON'T!

NOO—

9

HP

HP

HP

HP

THIS IS MY MISTAKE FOR DELAYING THINGS.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D VENTURE THIS DEEP SO SOON.
AH-
LOAD OFF YOUR HANDS?

COME TO MY WARDROOM ONCE YOU WAKE UP.

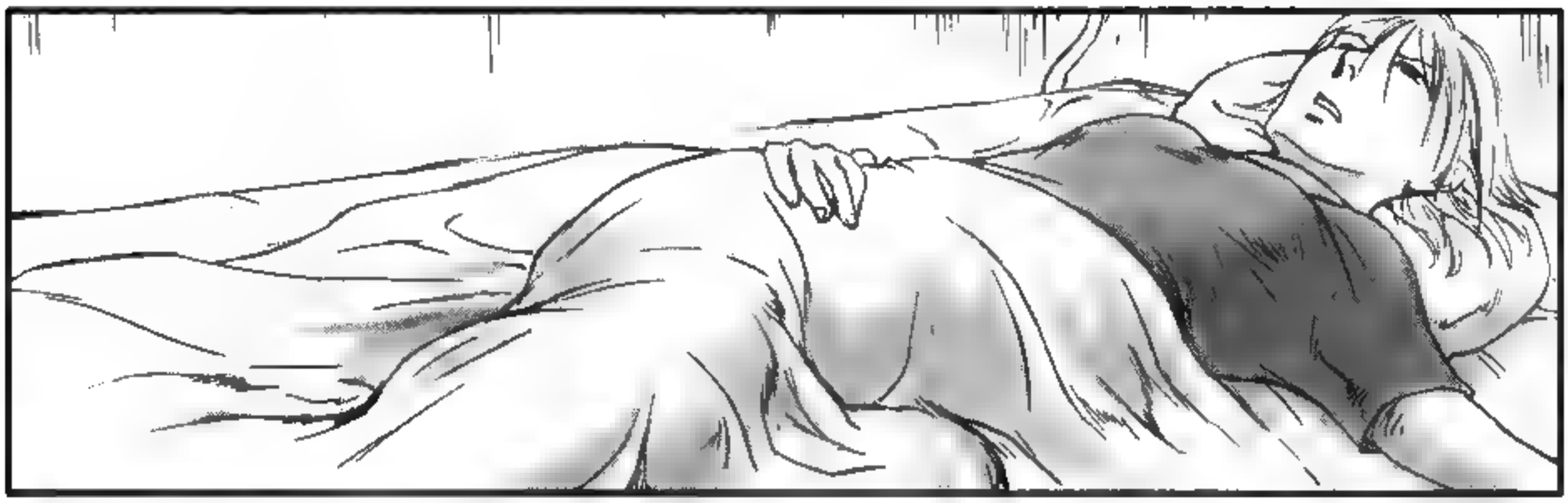
!!

ASAP!

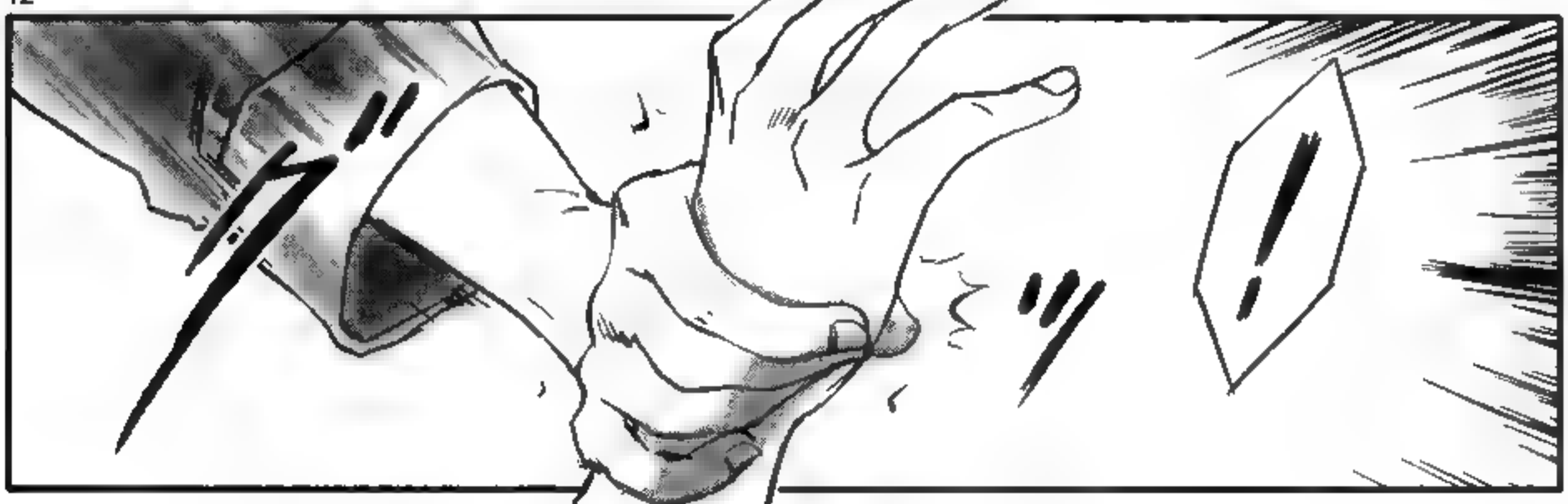
11

SGT. ARMEA...?

.....



12



I TOLD YOU TO COME ASAP, DIDN'T I?

NOW COME WITH ME.

FORGIVE ME,

SERGEANT...

.....

THAT DAY,

A RETALIATORY BOMBING RAID WAS CARRIED OUT.

IN RESPONSE TO OUR ATTACK,

15

14

THE BOMBS WERE DROPPED IN SUCH A WAY,

AS IF TO SURROUND THE TOWN FIRST.

TO BE A SECRET ACCESS POINT SUPPLYING THE NESTS WITH NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER.

THE SECONDS SIMPLY DECLARED THE SCHOOL AT THE CENTER OF THE CITY,

THEIR TARGET WAS A CITY,

WITH NO MILITARY CONNECTIONS WHATSOEVER.

AS THE FLAMES ENGULFED THE CITY ON ALL SIDES,

THE CITY RESIDENTS WERE HERDED TOWARDS THE SCHOOL AT THE CITY CENTER BEFORE...

16

THEY CHOSE TO ATTACK THAT CITY BECAUSE ***THEY KNEW*** IT HAD NO ACCESS POINT.

THEY KNOW ***JUST AS WELL AS US*** THAT THERE'S NO ACCESS POINT IN THAT TOWN...

17

IT'S TO MOCK THE POWER OF OUR TRANSFER CORPS.

THEY'RE CHALLENGING OUR TRANSFER CORPS TO COME SAVE THE CITY IF WE EVEN CAN.

I CAN'T PICK UP A SINGLE WAIL...
WE'RE POWERLESS.

SEEMS SO..

IS THIS THE PLACE THAT THEY BOMBED?

IT'S SO QUIET HERE...

PRIVATE OGA.

NEW RECRUITS ARE ALWAYS FULL OF COMPLAINTS.

THEY COMPLAIN THAT THE COORDINATE SPACE IS CLOSED OFF TO THEM.

THAT THEY CAN'T FLY FREELY.

I... I NEVER MADE COMPLAINTS OF THAT NATURE, SIR!

JUST SIT DOWN!

NOW LISTEN.

YOU SOLDIERS ARE NOT BEING ENCLOSED OR SHUT OFF.

YOU'RE BEING PROTECTED.

FROM THE VARIOUS CHAOTIC ILLUSIONS CARVED INTO THE RELATIVE COORDINATE SPACE.

YOU'RE BEING PROTECTED,

!

THE "RED-HAIRED ONE."

FOR INSTANCE, THE ONE YOU JUST MET.

THAT IS NO CHILD,

AND IT HAS NO NAME.

...DOES THAT CHILD HAVE A NAME?

IT'S SIMPLY THE MANIFESTATION OF A DELUSION.

JUST A LITTLE AFTER THE FOUNDING OF THE TRANSFER CORPS...

DELUSION ...?

ONCE UPON A TIME,

THAT SHE WAS HARBOURING HER CHILD INSIDE HER WOMB.

THERE WAS A CERTAIN TRANSFER SOLDIER WHO WAS STRUCK BY A DELUSION.

SHE BECAME CONVINCED,

BUT THIS SOLDIER HAD POWER.

IT'S NOT AN ENTIRELY UNCOMMON OCCURRENCE.

NORMALLY, IT CAN BE TREATED WITHOUT PROBLEM.

SHE FLED ACROSS MANY DARK PARTS OF THE COORDINATE SPACE,

AND SPREAD HER DELUSIONS IN MANY SHAPES AND FORMS.

AN UNPARALLELED POWER.

WERE ANTHROPO-MORPHIZED...

THE IMPERSONAL TRANSFER POWERS... SUCH AS NAVIGATION,

THAT IS WHAT "RED-HAIR" IS.

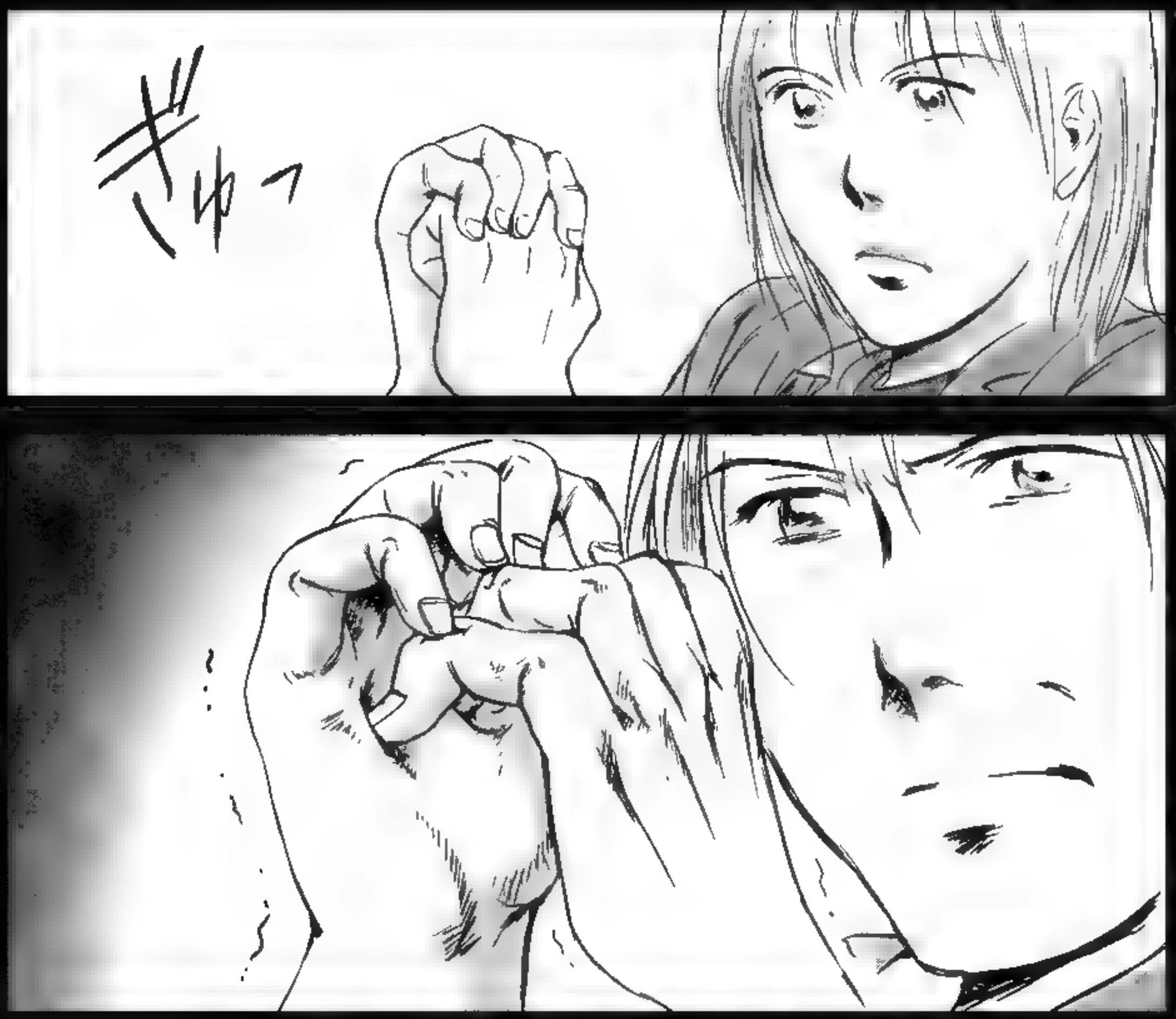
THAT IS WHY,

SINCE THEN, THERE'VE BEEN OTHERS WHO WERE TAKEN IN BY "RED-HAIR,"

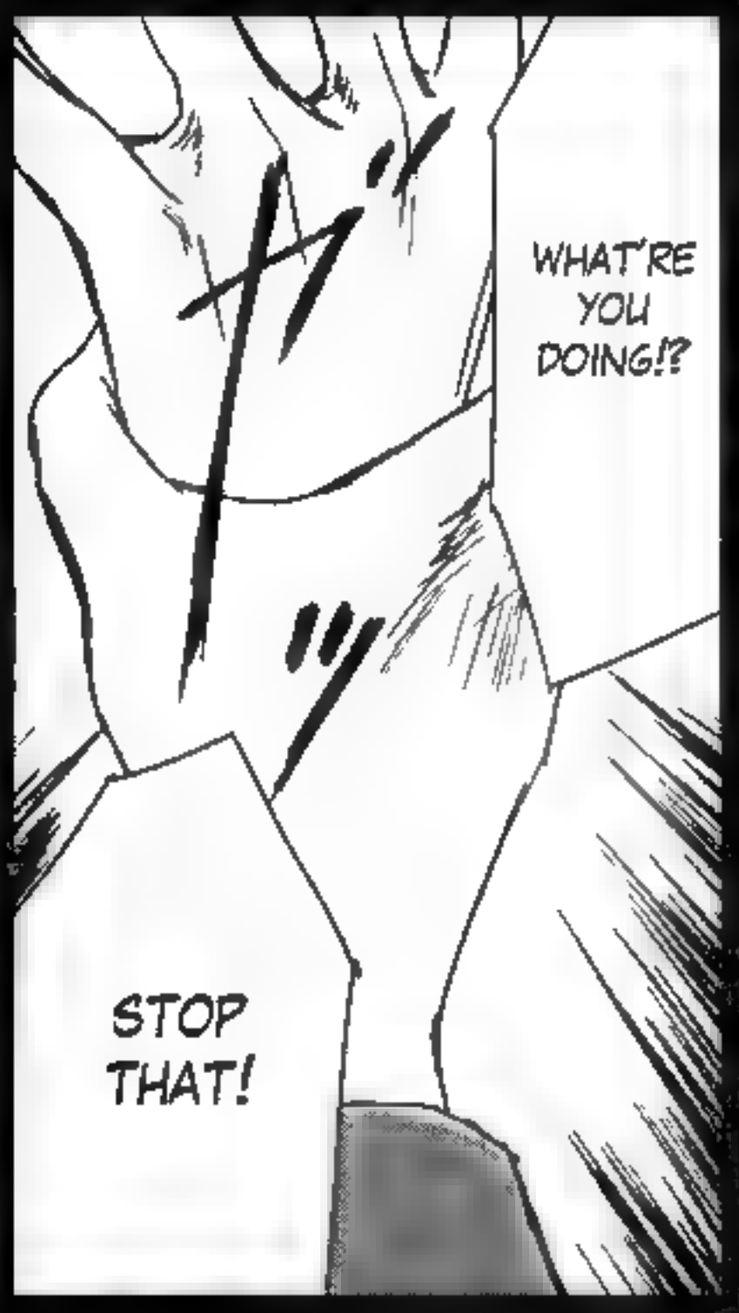
AND ALSO BECAME MORE AND MORE DELUDED.

BUT AS YOU ARE NOW...

WE ONLY PERMIT THOSE WHO CAN PSYCHOLOGICALLY STAND SUCH DELUSIONS TO VENTURE "OUTSIDE."



THE SENSATION I FELT FROM TOUCHING THAT MIRAGE YOU CALL RED HAIR.
THE SENSATION HAS FADED, SERGEANT.


WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?
STOP THAT!

I AM NOT SO FOOLISH AS TO MISTAKE A MIRAGE FOR A REAL HUMAN CHILD.

HOWEVER!

OGA!

I'M MOST CERTAINLY A TERRIBLE SOLDIER. MY AIM IS POOR AND I OFTEN FORGET MY FORMATIONS.

.....

SO PLEASE GIVE ME STRENGTH!

PLEASE GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO SAVE REAL CHILDREN!

DON'T EVER FORGET, YOUR WORDS JUST NOW.

CHAPTER 12 BEFORE THE STORM [12 WEEKS]

I TOLD THEM THE RESIDENTS NEEDED TO BE EVACUATED...

BUT THEY DON'T LISTEN.

I TOLD THEM...

THEY IGNORED IT AND DO NOTHING.

THE SEISMICS GAVE US A WARNING 8 DAYS IN ADVANCE AND YET...

WE LET ALL THOSE INNOCENT CHILDREN DIE IN THAT SCHOOL!

IN THE END, ONLY THE MILITARY TROOPS ATHOREN...

THIS IS ABSURD!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY!?

PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

SMIRK

IT-

IT'S AN UTTER FABRICA-TION!

HAST AMBASSADOR WILLIAM ALBA

DO YOU THINK THAT SIMPLY CALLING IT A "FABRICATION" TIME AND TIME AGAIN WILL MAKE REALITY GO AWAY?

IT'S JUST THAT HAST SEEMS TO NEVER TIRE OF SAYING THE SAME THINGS.

NEW ALLIED HEKIOU GOVERNMENT'S ACTING REPRESENTATIVE SUT I L 16

!

Record-ing state-ment

RECORD THE AMBASS-ADOR'S "FABRICA-TION" REMARK TOO

Record-ing state-ment

THAT'S A CLEAR INSULT TO OUR NATION!

Recording stopped

Recording stopped

THERE IS JUST ONE THING I WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO YOU.

LET US STOP WASTING TIME WITH THEATRICAL OUTBURSTS.

AMBASSADOR ALBA.

4

AND THEN ACCEPT AN UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.

I ASK YOUR NATION TO CEASE ITS VIOLATION OF MOTHERHOOD BY PUTTING AN END TO ITS TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY,

IT SEEMS YOUR NATION STILL DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IT IS IN.

THE SAME OLD TIRED DEBATE...

WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO USE OUR TRANSFER CORPS FOR THAT MISSION.

OUR NATION WILL USE EVERY MEANS AT HER DISPOSAL TO FIGHT THE ILLEGAL COLONISTS, THAT IS TO SAY THE SECONDS,

AND LIBERATE THE FIRST NATIONS WHO HAVE SINCE FALLEN.

I REFUSE.

MEMBERS OF YOUR FORMER ALLIANCE OF FIRST NATIONS ARE ALSO COMING TO FEAR THEIR POWER.

TO OPPOSE THE USE OF THE TRANSFER CORPS...

WE LEGAL-COLONISTS ARE NO LONGER THE ONLY ONES,

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.

AS WE DO NOT POSSESS THE TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY, WE SYMPATHIZE WITH THESE CONCERNS OF HELPLESS FEELING IN THE FACE OF AN EVER-PRESENT THREAT.

.....

THESE SUDDEN INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM PERPETRATED BY THE TRANSFER CORPS IS UNSETTLING EVERYONE.

WE THUS REQUEST THAT THE LOCATION OF ALL ACCESS POINTS BE REVEALED FOR ALL AND SUBSE-QUENTLY BE SEALED OFF.

NGHH-

YOU'RE JUST A ROBOT PROGRAMMED TO SPOUT SOPHISTRY AND TWISTED TRUTHS!

SO AS LONG AS WE DON'T SURREN-DER,

YOU'LL KEEP FABRICATING THESE "INCIDENTS," IS THAT IT!?

Recording statement.

THAT WAS AN INSULT JUST NOW.

6

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY TO NEGO-TIATE, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SECONDS ONLY WANT ONE THING:

OUR TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY...

HOW LONG MUST I STAY HERE ON THE PAN-HUMAN COOPERA-TION'S NEUTRAL SPACE STATION,

AND CONTINUE THE NEGOTIA-TIONS WITH THIS "DIPLOMATIC PROCEDURE-A.I." INSTALLED ROBOT?

MR. PRESIDENT,

094

AS WE FIRST COLONISTS WANDERED ACROSS SPACE AT NEAR LIGHT SPEEDS IN SEARCH OF A NEW HOME,

TO BE FRANK, I MUST CONFESS HOW UNUSUAL I FIND IT ALL...

200 YEARS PASSED ON THE WORLD WE LEFT BEHIND, WHERE THE SECOND COL-ONISTS MADE INCREDIBLE SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES TO SURPASS US.

IT IS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT THEIR R&D HAS BEEN AT WORK TRYING TO OBTAIN THIS TECHNOLOGY FOR A LONG TIME.

I, FOR ONE, DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEIR LACK OF SUCCESS IS ATTRIBUTED TO THEIR MORAL BELIEFS, WHICH LABEL TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY AS "INHUMANE."

YET FOR ALL THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY, IT'S ALREADY BEEN 20 YEARS SINCE THEY CAME TO HEKIOU AND IN THAT TIME...

AND HOW MUCH LONGER CAN WE EXPECT TO HANG ONTO IT?

WHY IS IT THAT OUR NATION OF HAST ALONE HAS MANAGED TO HANG ON TO THIS LONE ADVANTAGE FOR SO LONG?

THEY HAVE NEVER ONCE SUCCEEDED AT INSTAN-TENOUS TRANSFER WITHIN A GRAVITA-TIONAL SPHERE USING THE NIEBASS.

THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN IS THAT WE MUST ENLARGE THE TRANSFER CORPS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE,

SO THAT WE MAY TURN OUR LONE ADVANTAGE INTO AN OVERWHELMING ONE.

WHILE ALL THAT IS UNCLEAR TO ME,

IS TOO BIG.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, I PROPOSE THAT NO SACRIFICE,

SINCERELY, HAST AMBASSADOR WILLIAM ALBA.

8

SHEDD!

NEXT!

YES, SIR!

USE THE FOCAL POINTS OF THE COORDINATE SPACE TO TAKE THE FLAGS.

DON'T BE AFRAID OF BUMPING INTO THE DUMMY DOLLS.

NOW START!

HAHHH!

10

DON'T PAUSE!

!

NEXT ONE! NEXT!

COMPLETE!

HUFF

HUFF

PANT

PANT

GOOD, COLLECT YOUR BREATHING.

I WANT THE REST OF YOU TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS MUCH TOO!

RIGHT.

HUFF

HUFF

THAT'S ONE CYCLE.

12

WHEN WILL I BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE YOUR RELATIVE COORDINATE SPACE?

YES, SGT!

OGA, STEP FORTH!

SERGEANT!

SO WHY IS IT,

THAT ONLY SHE'S GETTING ABSOLUTE COORDINATE SPACE TRAINING!?

MUCH BETTER THAN OGA!

I'M CONFIDENT I CAN DO WELL!

CALM DOWN.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT OGA'S TRAINING IS ABOUT, SHEDD?

YES, SIR!

YOU'RE RIGHT ON TRACK TO BECOME A DRIVER.

SO STOP TRYING TO RUSH THINGS AND CONTINUE YOUR CURRENT TRAINING.

BUT-

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. IT'S NOT BECAUSE OGA'S AN EXCEL-LENT SOLDIER.

IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF CONSTI-TUTION.

13

IT'S A DRILL CALLED "STAY."

IT'S JUST AS THE NAME MAKES IT SOUND.

YOU SIMPLY STAY PUT.

IN TOTAL DARKNESS, ALONE, ALL THE WHILE COLLECTING YOUR MIND.

MOVING OR EVEN TURNING AROUND IS NOT ALLOWED.

AS YOU'LL EVENTUALLY BE EASED INTO IT DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR OVERALL GENERAL TRAINING.

AS YOU ARE NOW, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO DO THIS KIND OF TRAINING,

14

AH-

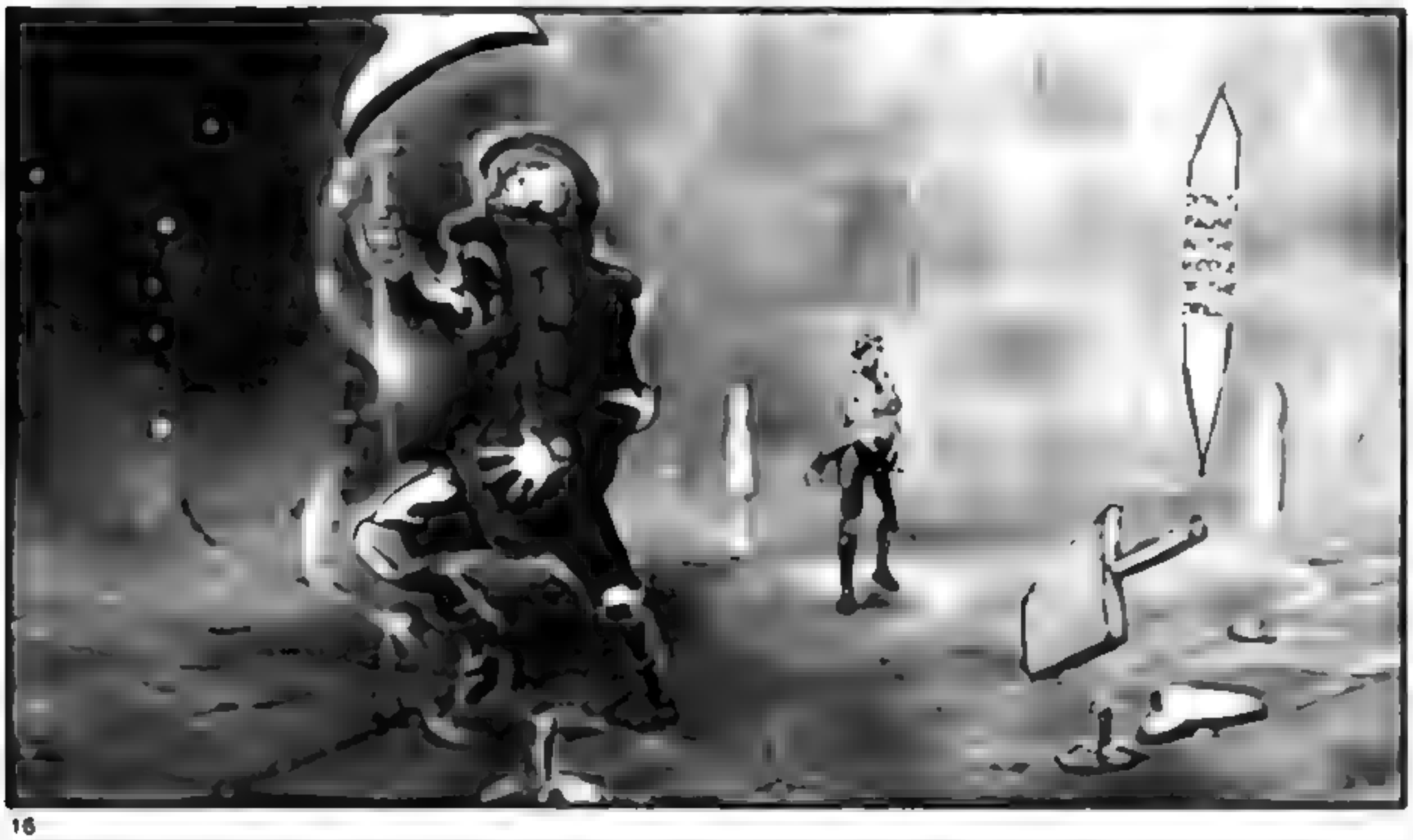
IT'S A PRETTY DISTRESSFUL DRILL, TO BE HONEST.

YES, SERGEANT...

ALRIGHT OGA, YOU'RE NEXT. GET READY.

HAHH!

I DID I-



BOOKS!?

YOU BET I KNEW! I PREPARED IN ADVANCE BY REQUESTING SOME GOOD BOOKS!

DID YA KNOW? IT'S FREE TIME FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS!

JUST LEAVE ME BE!

CASS...

LET SOME STEAM OFF, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

FUCK READING! YOU GOTTA, LIKE, WIND DOWN IN A MORE ENERGETIC WAY!

I'M AFRAID THE LACEWORK KIT YOU REQUESTED FOR HAS BEEN DENIED PERMISSION.

WOULD YOU BE INTER-ESTED IN A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE INSTEAD?

OH...

MARIA RIVERA... MARIA RIVERA...

WHA-

NO, I DON'T!

YOU UNDERSTAND WHY, DON'T YOU?

OR EVEN MOVIES WITH SCENES OF HOMEMAKING IS FORBIDDEN FOR THE SAME REASON.

ANY SORT OF KNITTING, MEMORIAL QUILTING,

SORRY, BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S AGAINST MILITARY REGULATIONS.

I NEED A LACEWORK KIT!

THAT CAN'T BE!

RIVERA?

IT'S NOT BECAUSE I'VE DELUDED MYSELF INTO THINKING I'M ACTUALLY PREGNANT!

LOOK, MY DAUGHTER BACK HOME NEEDS A VEIL FOR HER SACRAL CEREMONY!

18

IS THAT WRONG?

キュス

NO, IT'S JUST...

SURPRISING, THAT'S ALL.

.....

YOU HAVE A KID?

THAT'S RIGHT!

AND ISN'T THE SACRAL CEREMONY FOR BABIES YOUNGER THAN 2?

SO YOU GAVE BIRTH BEFORE YOU WERE 18?

WHOA.

I DIDN'T MENTION IT BECAUSE IT'S NOT RELATED WITH OUR MILITARY SERVICE.

BUT AREN'T YOU ONLY 20 YEARS OLD?

AND DID A YEAR AND A HALF OF MILITARY SERVICE PRIOR TO JOINING THE TRANSFER CORPS!

THAT'S WHY I HAD MY BABY TAKEN AWAY FROM ME,

THAT'S WHY, I WAS GLAD TO HEAR WHEN SERVICE IN THE TRANSFER CORPS WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH MY SENTENCE.

THEY TOLD ME THAT I COULD HAVE MY DAUGHTER BACK AFTER 40 WEEKS OF SERVICE!

BUT HAVING MY BABY TAKEN AWAY FROM ME FOREVER WAS SOMETHING I DIDN'T EXPECT...

I DIDN'T MIND THE MILITARY SERVICE.

I'D EXPECTED THAT MUCH OF A PUNISHMENT FROM THE START.

SO I THOUGHT I COULD AT THE VERY LEAST SEND HER A VEIL INSTEAD, AND YET...

I'M STILL LOCKED IN THIS BASE AND CAN'T EVEN PRAY FOR MY CHILD AT HER CEREMONY...

.....

BUT,

!

MARIA.

THEN HOW ABOUT ASKING YOUR COMRADES?

MAYBE YOU CAN SEND YOUR OWN VEIL OR A FRIEND'S,

TO YOUR DAUGHTER INSTEAD?

MINE WAS BURNED LONG AGO AND I DON'T HAVE ANY CLOSE FRIENDS BACK HOME...

.....

I CAN HAVE MY VEIL,

SENT TO HER BY ASKING LAR... WELL, A FRIEND OF MINE.

THAT IS, IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU.

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!

WELL, RIVERA?

WHAT, NO GOOD?

THE TIES OF WAR BUDDIES ARE THICKER THAN BLOOD, Y'KNOW!

.....

THANK YOU SO MUCH...

THANK YOU, MANA.

C'MON, LET'S PARTY!

AND LET SOME STEAM OFF!

What's going on there?

Huh?

SO YOU GOTTA ENJOY YOURSELF EVERY NOW AND THEN OR YOU'LL BREAK DOWN!

40 WEEKS IS A LONG TIME!

THERE, THERE.

WELL THEN!

THE

SO WHAT IS THIS SHOW ANYWAYS?

STRESS-RELIEF

OK, GOOD

BUT YOU'LL SIT AT THE BACK THE FRONT SEATS ARE FOR THE VET'S ON THEIR SECOND OR LATER CYCLES!

YES, SIR!

WE'RE WITHIN, SIR!

WE'RE WITHIN, SIR!

THIS IS A WITHIN-ONLY AREA.

STOP PUTTING ON AIRS AND WASTING OUR TIME

NICA, IT'S JAM-PACKED

23

?

111

SKIP THE FLATTERY AND SHOW US THE GOODS, DAVE!

I'VE BEEN AROUND TO SEVERAL BASES SO BELIEVE ME,

WHEN I SAY THAT THIS BASE'S TRANSFER CORPS HAS THE PRET-TIEST LADIES.

LADIES OF THE SPECIAL TRANSFER CORPS!

I SINCERELY THANK YOU ALL FOR THE HARD WORK YOU PUT IN DAY-IN AND DAY-OUT.

ドキッ

LET'S GET THIS SHOW STARTED!

THAT AIN'T AN OFFICER.

He looks kinda cool.

I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING THAT OFFICER.

ALRIGHT THEN!

SEE YA.

I'M OFF TO THE FRONT-ROW.

HUH?

CORPORAL MAUN?

GO, DAVE!
HELL YEAH, THIS IS WHAT WE CAME FOR!
BRING OUT FAY AS WELL!
DID IT START ALREADY?
SGT. ARMEA!

DID YOU PUT ON A FEW POUNDS, DAVE?

HEY, DON'T SLIGHT MY PRIDE AS A PRO-DANCER NOW.

COME UP TO THE FRONT!

26

ヒュー ヒュー

AWW YEAH!

FLATTERING ME FOR A TIP?

ハイン

THOUGH I SUPPOSE MY PRIDE IS NOT AS STRONG AS YOUR PRIDE AS A SOLDIER, SERGEANT.

HERE YOU GO THEN.

ﾅﾆｰ

114

Came to the show too

NO SMOKING, NO ALCHOL,
AND NO DRUGS.
AND YET WE TRANSFER CORPS MADE A RIOT, FUELLED BY OUR ADRENALINE ALONE.

AND EVEN THE THING GROWING LARGER AND LARGER INSIDE MY WOMB.

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, I PUT ASIDE ALL THOUGHTS ABOUT OUR HARSH TRAINING, "RED-HAIR,"

WHILE OUR FUTURES MAY BE FULL OF BLOOD, TEARS, AND MUD,

FOR THAT NIGHT ALONE, WE COULD AFFORD TO FORGET ALL ABOUT IT.

CHAPTER 13 RETREAT [14 WEEKS]

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

3

THUMP

4

DON'T STICK YOUR HEAD OUT, OGA!
SIR! AT THIS RATE, THE OTHER PLATOON WILL BE WIPED OUT TOO!
WE SHOULD BACK THEM UP-

AGHH!

AND YOU'RE ALSO OUR ONLY TICKET BACK.

YOU TRANSFER SOLDIERS ARE THE ONES WHO BROUGHT US INTO THIS HELL,

SO UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL YOU BE ALLOWED TO TAKE UNNECES-SARY ACTION THAT'LL ONLY GET YOU KILLED.

THE MOON'S SETTING...

UGH...

LEAVING US STRANDED IN HOSTILE TERRITORY...

.....

OUR PLATOON HAD BEEN UNABLE TO RETURN TO THE TRANSFER AREA,

CORPORAL ELLISON...

WHAT SHOULD I DO SERGEANT?

SERGEANT!

Б

S-SGT. ARMEA...

STOP SHOUTING. I'M ALREADY LISTENING.

THAT MEANS THE ONLY TRANSFER SOLDIER IN THE 3RD PLATOON IS YOU RIGHT NOW.

YOU HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO GUIDE YOUR PLATOON BACK TO THE TRANSFER AREA.

LISTEN UP, OGA.

CORPORAL ELISON'S DISAPPEARED FROM THE COORDINATE SPACE.

!

COM-PLETELY!

THERE'S A MASS OF WHITE FLOWERS AHEAD OF YOU.

THAT'S MY CURRENT LOCATION. CAN YOU SEE IT?

I SEE IT, SGT.

Y-

YES, SGT.

GOOD.

B-BUT,

I'LL BE TARGETED BY THE TETRAPODS.

IT'S JUST WITHIN THE VERY EDGE OF THE TRANSFER AREA.

RUN OVER HERE.

GET DOWN, TRANSFER SOLDIER!

NOW WHEN I GIVE YOU THE SIGNAL,

I'LL PROVIDE SUPPRES-SIVE FIRE.

SO RUN AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN!

IT'S AN UNMANNED RECON PLANE.

WHY

SHIT, IT SPOTTED US!

WE'D ONLY BE GETTING FARTHER AWAY FROM THE TRANSFER AREA...

NO, WAIT!

WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE!

AGH-

I'LL STOP ITS LEGS!

COM-MANDER!

SHIT!

IF WE MOVE ANY FARTHER AWAY, WE'LL DEFINITELY FAIL TO REACH THE TRANSFER AREA BEFORE THE MOON SETS!

SGT. ARMEA ORDERED US TO RUSH TOWARDS THE FLOWER OVERGROWTH.

THEY CAN USE IT TO TALK TO EACH OTHER WHENEVER,

WITHOUT US KNOWING.

Chk! Hm...?

POUR POUR

TRANSFER SOLDIERS HAVE A SEPARATE CHAT LINE IN HERE.

SHUT UP, PNG!

.....

OUR COMMS ARE JAMMED. HOW'D YOU CONNECT TO HER?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE HALLUCI

THE TRANSFER SOLDIER'S THE ONE WITH THE CRITICAL INTEL,

NOT US.

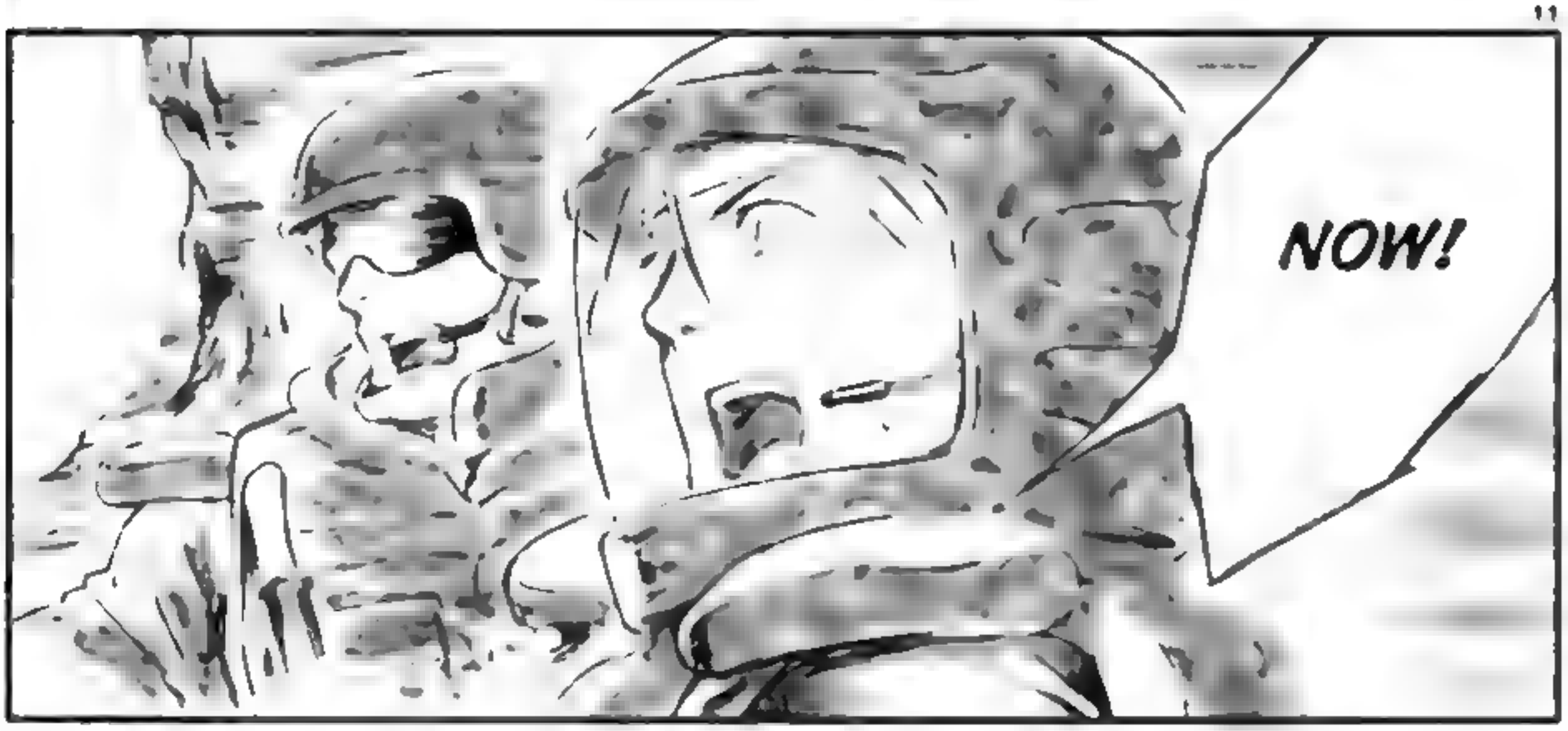
...IN ANY CASE, THAT LEAVES US WITH NO OTHER CHOICE.

THAT'S RIGHT!

SO WE LISTEN TO WHATEVER THIS GIRL SAYS,

EVEN IF IT SOUNDS LIKE BULLSHIT?

NOW.
COME TO ME, OGA.


NOW!

HUFF
HUFF
HUH?
EVERY-THING'S SO QUIET...
AGHH!
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT...
!

BEEP

BEEP
BEEP

RETREAT!

STOP THOSE TETRA-PODS!

DID YOUR CHAT LINE NOT TELL YOU ABOUT THAT!?

TO THINK THEIR UNDERGROUND FACILITY EXTENDED ALL THE WAY OUT THIS FAR...

1 WEEK AGO

THIS UNDER-GROUND FACILITY,

A TRANSFER POINT WAS DISCOVERED ONLY 5 KM AWAY FROM THIS TARGET FACILITY.

FORTUNATELY FOR US,

DESTROYING IT WILL BE KEY TO RECOVERING THIS AREA FROM THE SECOND'S CONTROL.

STORES THE MAINTENANCE PARTS FOR THE TETRAPODS GUARDING THE NORTHWESTERN VIRGIN FOREST.

YOU DO REALIZE THIS, DON'T YOU!?

THOSE 5 KM WILL BE A MARCH THROUGH HELL ITSELF.

"ONLY!?"

YOUR SOLDIERS ARE ALWAYS BACK AT THE TRANSFER POINT WITH TIME TO SPARE EVEN AFTER DOING THEIR ROLL-CALL. HOW COULD I FORGET THAT YOU'VE NEVER ONCE CAUSED UNNECESSARY TROUBLE FOR THE TRANSFER CORPS?

SGT. ARMEA!

AFTER ALL, THE DESCENT CORPS IS **FAMOUS** FOR ITS PUNCTUALITY.

THOSE 5 KM IS FOR OUR DESCENT CORPS TO WORRY ABOUT.

STAY QUIET. ALL THAT'S REQUIRED OF THE TRANSFER CORPS IS TO TAKE US TO THE POINT AND BACK.

OH, OF COURSE, OF COURSE.

HMPH, AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A RECON SOLDIER?

Her concern is under-standable This transfer point is rather weak,

So not only is its transfer area in which transfer is possible quite small, but it's also hard for us to see the situation on the ground.

YOU'RE SPEAKING OUT OF LINE!

Please calm down, first lieutenant.

DON'T FORGET THAT.

AND THE MOONLIT AREAS WHICH WE CAN PEER OUT TO FROM WITHIN THE SPACE'S POINTS.

WHAT WE CAN SCOUT OUT IS LIMITED TO THE EXTENT OF THE COORDINATE SPACE,

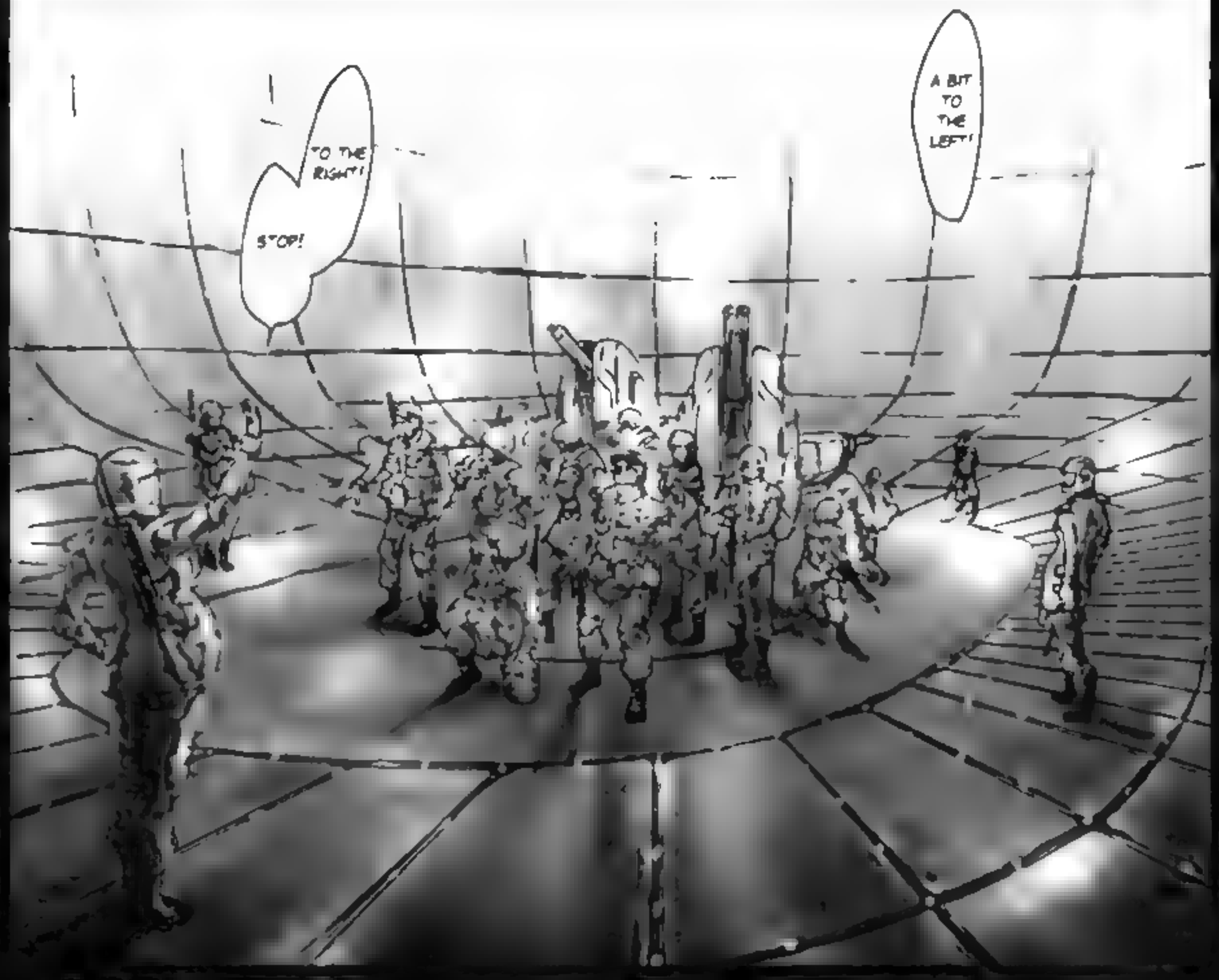
THE OPER-ATION WILL PROCEED AS PLANNED.

THE ENEMY DEFENSE IS OPEN FOR ATTACK.

INTEL FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND RANGER UNITS,

HAVE ALSO BEEN CONSULTED.

YOUR INTEL IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WE'VE RELIED UPON FOR THIS PLAN.


TO THE RIGHT!
STOP!
A BIT TO THE LEFT!

EVERY-THING S A-OK! STANDBY!

JUST KIDDING!

Ha Ha Ha

HEY, PVT! YOU MIGHT WANNA BEND YOUR HIPS BACK OR YOUR BALLS WILL BE CUT OFF DURING FLIGHT!

WHAT!?

THE REST OF YOU GET YOUR ASS OVER HERE!

TRANSFER CORPS! ASSUME FORMATION 0! WE'RE RETURNING TO BASE FOR ANOTHER HAUL!

YES, CORPORAL

AND HAST TROOPS HAD ALL LANDED AT THE TRANSFER AREA...

AFTER CONDUCTING SEVERAL FLIGHTS,

THAT WAS WHEN IT HAPPENED.

AHH-

CORPORAL ELISON!

GAHH!

WE CAN'T MAKE A FORMATION WITH THE TRANSFER SOLDIERS ON THAT SIDE.

FOR THE TIME BEING, THE HALF OF US HERE WILL RETREAT BACK TO BASE.

IT'S NO GOOD, WE'VE BEEN SEPARATED!

DEPUTY DRIVER BENORA! ARE THE OTHERS OVER THERE-

BUT MANA'S NOT...

WHAT!?

SGT. ARMEA!?

OGA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

TELL ME ELISON'S STATUS!

SHE'S PALE... AND IN REAL PAIN, BUT I DON'T SEE ANY MAJOR VISIBLE WOUNDS.

THEN IT'S LIKELY THAT THE SHOCK-WAVE CAUSED AN ABRUPTION IN HER WOMB!

A SURPRISE TETRAPOD ATTACK HAS LEFT CORPORAL ELISON AND PRIVATE OGA,

TO MOVE OUTSIDE THE TRANSFER AREA!

SHIT!

USE THE HEMOSTATIC NANOMACHINE KIT AT ONCE!

QUICKLY! OR I'LL DIE FROM BLOOD LOSS...

RIGHT HERE, AS MARKED ON THE BODY SUIT...

NGHH!

BUT...

THE REST IS ALL UP TO YOU, OGA..

SO I SHOULD BE OKAY FOR THE TIME BEING.

THE NANOMA-CHINE SHOULD LOCATE THE RUPTURED VESSEL,

AND STOP THE BLEEDING IN MY WOMB FOR NOW...

.....

UNDER-STOOD, CORPORAL.

SGT. ARMEA HASN'T GIVEN UP YET...

SHE MUST STILL BE THERE... WAITING FOR ANOTHER CHANCE...

WE'RE DONE FOR.

THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL WE CAN LAST A WHOLE DAY HERE ONCE THE MOON SETS...

HEY,
I'M ALREADY DOING ALL THAT I CAN.
WHY AREN'CHA HELPING HER?
SHUT YOUR TRAP, RED-HAIR.

I SAID SHUT UP!

IS THAT REALLY "ALL" YOU CAN DO THOUGH?

WOULDN'T THAT BE BAD FOR YOU?

IF I WERE TO DIS-APPEAR NOW,

.....

OGA!?

SERGEANT!

SGT...
IF THERE'S SOMETHING HE CAN DO FOR US, MAYBE HE SHOULD ASK HIM FOR HELP.
BUT IF YOU TAKE UP RED HAIR ON HIS OFFER,
I PROMISE I'LL BRING YOU BACK!
JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE AND WAIT!

I'LL BE FORCED TO BRAND YOU AS A TRAITOR.

I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT WE ACTUALLY MET BEFORE.

YOU KNOW, EVER SINCE WE MET,

CHAPTER 14 BLACKOUT [14 WEEKS]

LONG BEFORE THE TIME YOU BOUGHT ME THOSE GUMBALLS...

YOUR NAMES ARE DIF-FERENT, AFTER ALL.

I REALLY LIKED ELENA MORGAN...

BUT I GUESS YOU ONLY LOOK LIKE HER.

2

MY-

OGA!

I LIKED HER NAVI, TOO...

BUT THEN...

SISTER ELENA REALLY KNEW HOW TO FLY.

I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING AT ALL, SERGEANT!

THEN I'LL BE FORCED TO KICK YOU OUT FROM THE COORDINATE SPACE.

IF YOU CONTINUE TO HEAR OUT THE B.S. SPEWING OUT FROM RED HAIR,

SHE COULD FLY TO WHEREVER SHE WANTED.

BUT IF YOU WERE ONLY WILLING TO HEAR ME OUT,

YOU COULD FLY LIKE HER T-

OTHER-WISE...

I MAY END UP GOING ROGUE!

PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR ORDERS, SGT.!

YOU ARE TO HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE PATH OF FIRE AT THAT TIME.

WE HAVE NO TIME TO GO MEET YOU IN THE FOREST.

WE'VE TAKEN CONTROL OF ANOTHER CANNON TO PROVIDE YOU WITH COVERING FIRE IN 120 SECONDS.

!

GET YOUR PLATOON INTO FORMATION B AND COME TO CORNER 1 AT ONCE.

WE ALSO DON'T HAVE TIME TO DO A ROLL-CALL ONCE YOU GET HERE.

120 SECONDS!

!!

4

NO, DON'T LISTEN TO HER!

YES, SGT.!

WHATEVER HAPPENS, DON'T FORGET THE ORDER I GAVE YOU JUST NOW.

SO TRUST ME AND GET EVEN AN INCH CLOSER OVER HERE.

EVERYONE'S GOING TO DIE...

ALL I WANT IS FOR YOU TO MAKE ANOTHER FRIEND FOR ME...

S-

SHUT UP!

I'M NOT A TRAITOR!

I'LL PLACE MY TRUST IN THE SERGEANT!

WE'LL HEAD OUT.

AH-

HEY!

THE MOON'S ALMOST SET!

I'LL TRUST THE SERGEANT!

6

7

LET'S MOVE!

NOW!

8

RRRR—

KRAK

OGA!

ADVANCE EVEN ONE MORE STEP FORWARDS!

YOU'RE ALMOST HERE!

STAND UP!

UGH...

YES, SGT...

FWP

I CAN STILL SEE YOU IN THE COOR-DINATE SPACE!

SO KEEP RUNNING!

DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE ANEMIC!

IT'S PROOF THAT YOUR TRANSFER ORGAN IS STILL TAKING IN OXYGEN!

10

DESPERATELY AND FRANTICALLY...

OUR FORMATION IS CRUM-BLING...

LEFT...

TO THE LEFT!

WE DESPERATELY RAN TOWARDS THE PATH THAT THE SERGEANT OPENED UP FOR US...

BUT THE MOON, HEARTLESS TO OUR DESPERATION,

CONTINUED TO FALL...

THE MOON HASN'T SET JUST YET!

THE MOON'S SET!

NO, NOT YET!

ARE ARMEA AND HER MEN STRANDED FOR GOOD!?

I CAN STILL....

I CAN STILL SEE THE SERGEANT'S POSITION...

I CAN STILL SEE HER...!

I CAN SEE HER...

BUT I CAN'T REACH HER...

KEEP ADVANCING!

COME, OGA!

NOW!

14

!?

MY OWN ABSOLUTE COORDINATE SPACE!?

IS THIS...

WHA!?

!!

TO THE SERGEANT'S...!

IT'S CONNECTING...

TAKE CORNER 1, OGA! BEGIN COUNT-DOWN!

WHA!

GET INTO FORMATION S BEFORE ME!

GET READY TO FLY!

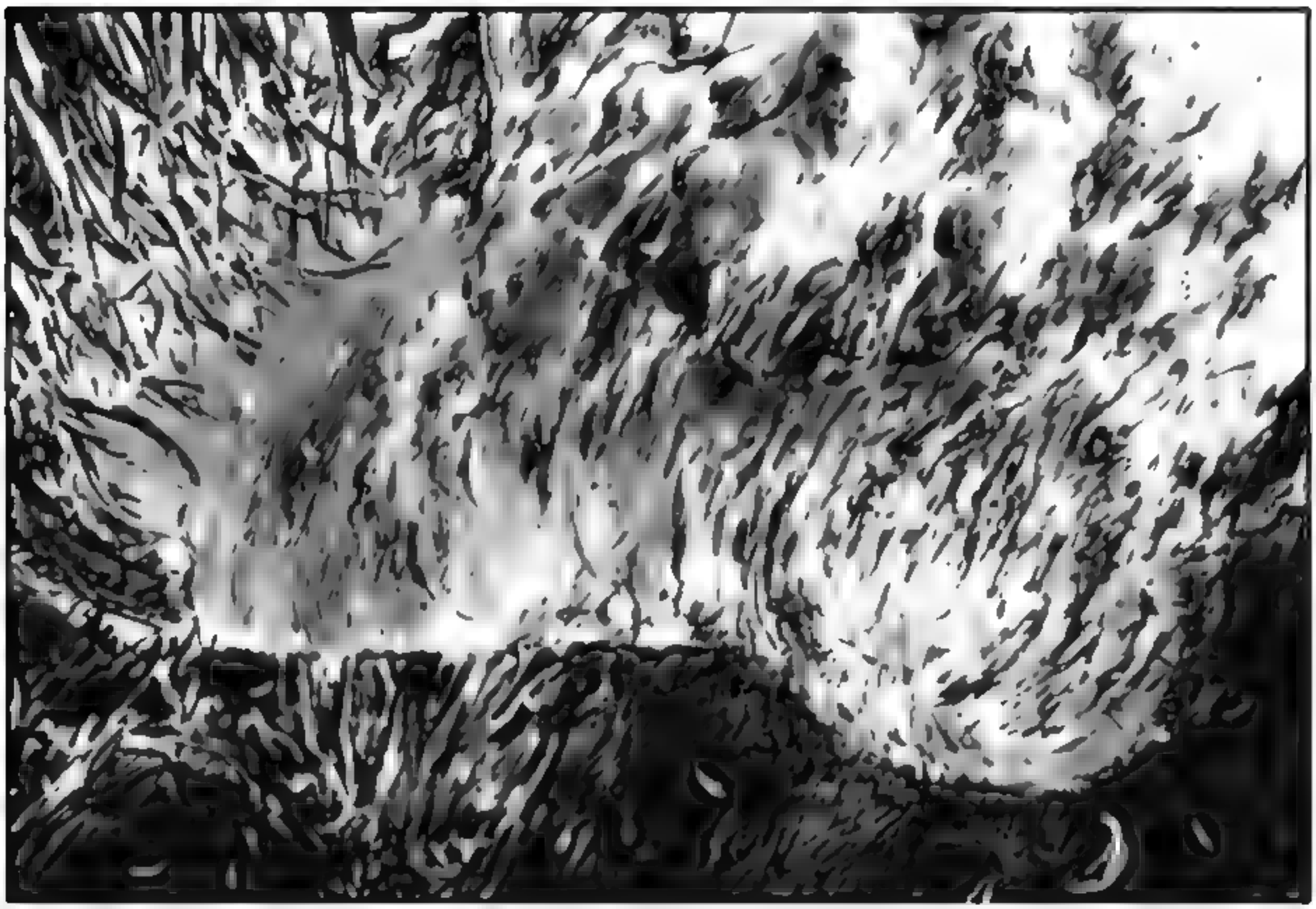
3

16

1

2

THAT WAY.



18

162

!

A NEW FRIEND!

!

I...

NO, WAIT! DON'T DISAPPEAR JUST YET!

NOOO! I FINALLY GOT A NEW F-

OGA.

HUFF

HUFF

YES.

DID YOU SEE YOUR NAVI'S FACE!?

HUFF

AH...

HUFF

IT WAS MY YOUNGER BROTHER,

KEN.

BUT...

IT CALLED ME,

"MOTHER..."

OGA.

THIS IS ONLY ITS STRATEGY,

FOR SURVIVAL.

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

BUT NEVER!

EVER LET IT USE YOU!

WE CAN CO-OPT ITS SURVIVAL STRATEGY FOR OUR ENDS,

24

AND THE MOMENT YOU BECOME A "HUMAN WEAPON."

IS THE MOMENT YOU LOSE YOUR QUALIFICA-TION TO BE A TRANSFER SOLDIER,

THE MOMENT YOU LET IT USE YOU INSTEAD OF THE OTHER WAY AROUND,

SGT.!

YES, SIR.

ASAP!

TAKE HER FOR COUN-SELLING.

A HUMAN WEAPON...

STOP!

I'M PER-FECTLY FINE!

I CAN DISTINGUISH FANTASY FROM REALITY.

SGT.!

25

laboratory area

X-ray area

"DISTINGUISH FANTASY FROM REALITY..."

THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
WELL...

WHEN FACING "THAT MOMENT."
WOULD WAVER,
ANYONE, NO MATTER HOW STABLE OR STRONG,

IS TO BLOCK OFF THE IMAGES THEY CAN SEE WITHIN THE COORDINATE SPACE,
BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVEN THAT,
ESPE-CIALLY...

TO RESTRICT THEIR ACCESS LEVEL TO THE COORDINATE SPACE.
THAT'S WHY WE USE NANO-MACHINES TO SEND JAMMING SIGNALS,

AN IMAGE OF WHAT THE HOST WISHES TO PROTECT THE MOST.

THE IMAGE THAT THE TRANSFER ORGAN PRODUCES BY DIRECTLY ACCESSING ITS HOST'S BRAIN...

THAT'S WHY,

THAT'S THE ROOT OF OUR TROUBLES...

YES, AND WE DULY RECOGNIZE YOUR ACHIEVE-MENTS IN THAT AREA.

I'VE DEVELOPED A WAY TO DISTINGUISH THE SIGNALS THE TRANSFER ORGAN EMITS AND JAM THEM IN ORDER TO DISRUPT THE FALSE VISIONS CREATED, WHICH COULD OTHERWISE LEAD TO COGNITIVE DISORDER-

HOWEVER,

.....

TAKE ELENA MORGAN FOR EXAMPLE.

THAT METHOD HAS HAD A TENDENCY OF SPOLING THE TRANSFER SOLDIERS.

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

ENOUGH TO EVEN SWEEP SGT. ARMEA OFF HER FEET.

THOUGH WE LOST CONTROL OF HER,

HER NATURAL ABILITY TO NAVIGATE THE COORDINATE SPACE WAS PHENOMENAL.

28

YES, IT'S QUITE STRANGE.

I DIDN'T EXPECT THE MAN WHO DEVELOPED THE JAMMING SYSTEM WOULD BE SO CONCERNED OVER THE OPINIONS OF A SINGLE WOMAN.

AHEM!

OH, SGT. ARMEA THIS, SGT. ARMEA THAT!

PHENOM-ENAL!?

SGT. ARMEA WOULD BLOW HER GASKET IF SHE HEARD YOU SAY THAT!

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, DR. HERMAN?

A HEAD RESEARCHER AT THE BIOLOGICAL R&D UNDER DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY SHOULD NOT BE SO EASILY INFLUENCED BY THE OPINIONS OF A SINGLE SERGEANT.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, TRANSFER DIRECTOR,

OUR PROBLEM IS-

THIS IS NOT A TRIFLING MATTER.

...I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

.....

ARMEA'S NOT JUST ANY SERGEANT THOUGH.

SHE'S-

ENOUGH ABOUT HER!

THINK OVER THIS WHOLE THING AGAIN!

JUST WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING MADE TO RAISE AND LOWER THE SCALE?

IT WAS ON THAT PROMISE THAT SAURA ENTRUSTED ME WITH HER TROOPS' BRAINS,

AS WELL AS THEIR WOMBS.

I HAVE NO INTENTION TO TAMPER WITH ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE ACCESS TO THE COORDINATE SPACE.

I'VE DONE EVERY-THING YOU'VE ASKED ME.

I EVEN WENT BEHIND THE SERGEANT'S BACK BY OBEYING YOUR REQUEST TO FIDDLE AROUND WITH THE JAMMING PARAMETERS.

OH BOTHER.

JUST WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE WORKING WHERE YOU ARE?

TO SIMPLY PROTECT THE PRIDE OF THE TRANSFER CORPS?

YOUR DUTY IS TO GUIDE MAST TO VICTORY
OF COURSE NOT
IT'S TIME WE HAVE BOTH YOU AND THE NOVAS.
TO REALIZE THAT FACT.

CHAPTER 15 ARTIFICIAL WOMB [15 WEEKS]

SO THEN... TELL ME ABOUT THIS BROTHER OF YOURS.

FOR INSTANCE...

ペた

YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER?

HMM, A LITTLE BROTHER IS NICE.

IS HE THE TYPE TO GO DO IT RIGHT AWAY?

IF YOU ASKED HIM TO GO ON AN ERRAND,

COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGIST DR DIAMOND

OH NO, NOT AT ALL.

……

HE'S MORE LIKELY TO COME BACK CRYING THAT HE LOST THE WALLET.

THAT KID IS SO EASILY DISTRACTED.

RIGHT.

BUT OUT ON THE BATTLE-FIELD,

HAVING A NAVI LIKE THAT WOULD BE TROUB-LING.

HAHA, I SUPPOSE THAT'S HOW LITTLE KIDS ARE.

HOW CUTE.

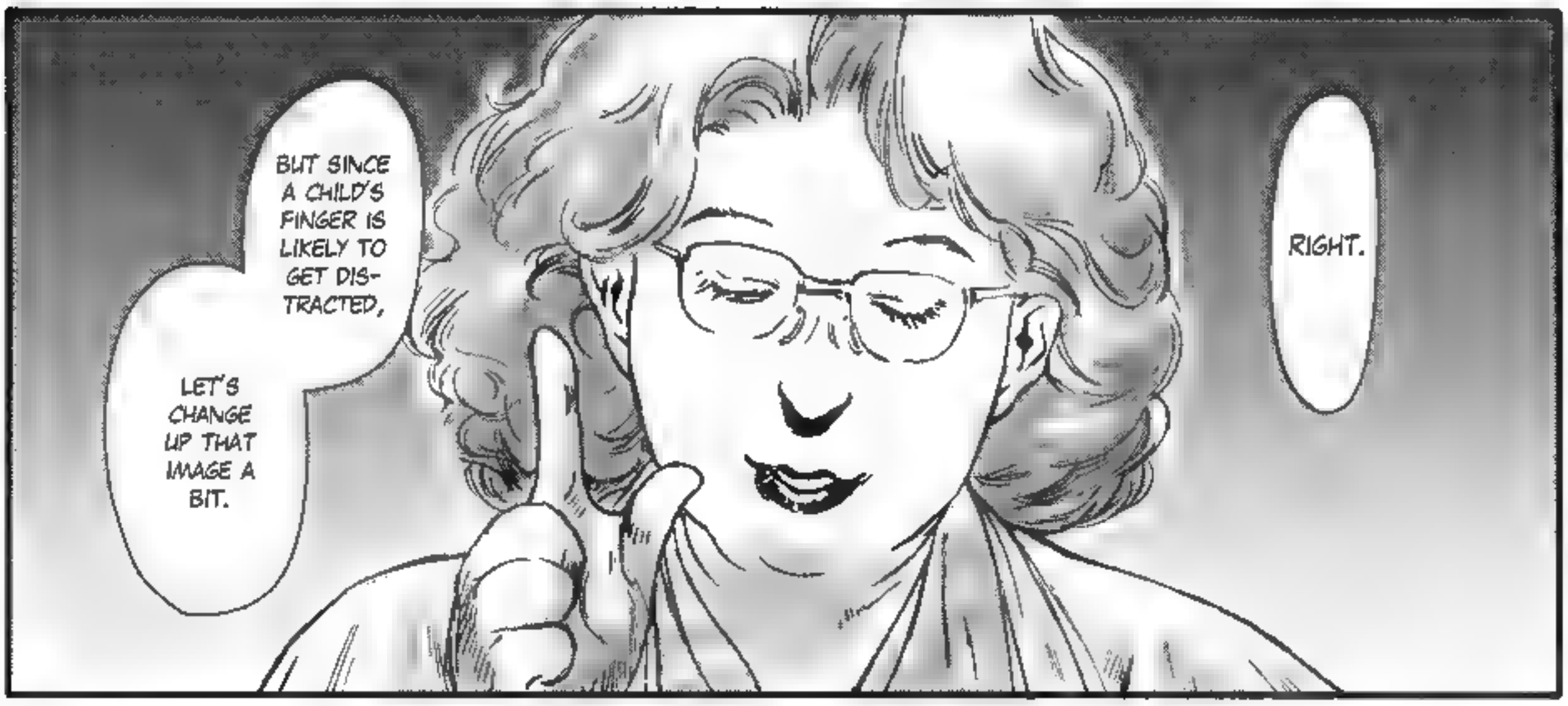
WHAT DO YOU SEE?

.....

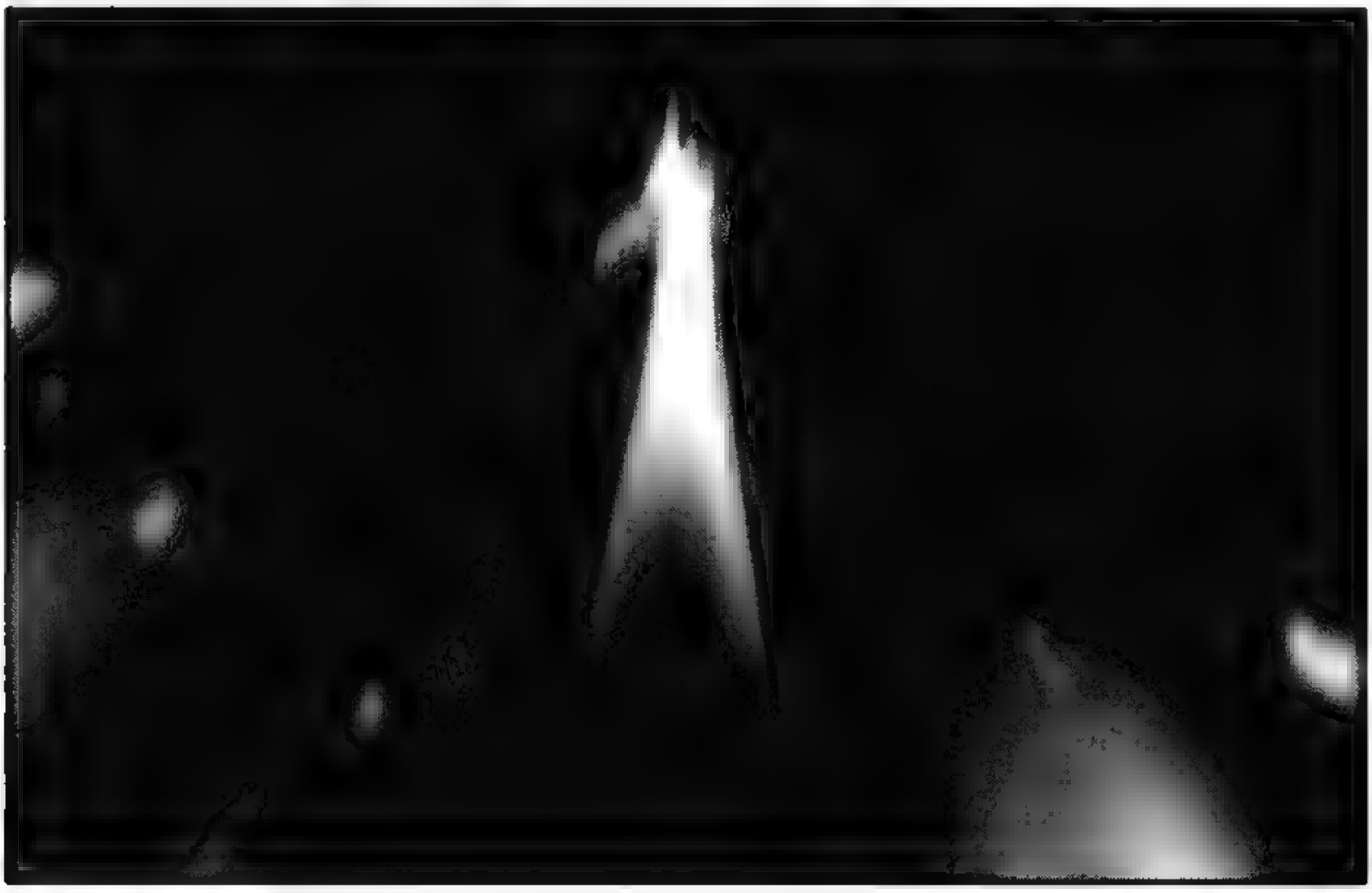
IMAGINE A POINTED FINGER IN THE COORDINATE SPACE.

THEN WHY DON'T WE FIX UP THE VISUALIZA-TION A BIT?

A CHILD'S FINGER.
A FINGER.


BUT SINCE A CHILD'S FINGER IS LIKELY TO GET DIS-TRACTED,
LET'S CHANGE UP THAT IMAGE A BIT.
RIGHT.

4



IMAGINE A STRAIGHT ARROW OF LIGHT,

RELEASED BY THE MOON GODDESS.

5

IT'S A TRANSFER ORGAN DOLL.

I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND IT USEFUL.

POKE

OH, AND HERE.

A GIFT.

WHOA!

I'LL NEED YOU TO DO SOME IMAGE TRAINING ON A REGULAR BASIS FROM NOW ON.

GOOD.

I FEEL LIKE I CAN FLY MUCH MORE PRECISELY NEXT TIME!

!

I PROMISE TO LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTA-TIONS, DR. DIAMOND!

IT'LL BE FINE.

I'M SURE YOU CAN PULL IT OFF.

7

THE MOON...

THE MOON HAS SET...

AGGHHHHH!

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

8

WHEN I GOT WORRIED ABOUT CORPORAL ELLISON'S STATUS,

I WAS ON MY WAY BACK FROM COUN-SELING...

SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD MAYBE...

.....

OGA? WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

!!

OH THANK GOD..

SO WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SURGICALLY REMOVE IT

HOWEVER, HER WOMB WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED.

IS SHE..

SHE'LL BE FINE IT'S NOTHING LIFE THREAT-ENING.

WAS IT..

MY FAULT?? FOR NOT INJECTING AT THE RIGHT PLACE?

OGA!

SHE'D BE RESTING IN A CASKET WRAPPED WITH A HAST FLAG.

IF NOT FOR YOU,

YOU STOPPED THE HEM-ORRHAG-ING.

THE FACT THAT SHE'S EVEN ALIVE RIGHT NOW IS PROOF OF THAT.

SHE GOT THROUGH THE ORDEAL HAVING EARNED A CRESCENT MOON MEDAL AND A MEDICAL DISCHARGE.

BUT THANK-FULLY,

BEAR KIDS...?

SHE'LL GET TO RETURN HOME,

DID YOU FORGET?

OGA.

WHERE SHE CAN MARRY AND EVEN HAVE KIDS.

FOR THE BASS CENTER'S,

ARTIFICIAL WOMBS.

ALL FORMER TRANSFER SOLDIERS GET PLACEMENT PRIORITY,

STILL NOT SATISFIED?

BUT STILL...

...RIGHT.

I KNOW THAT.

11

WHAT!?

OF COURSE, SOME WOULD SAY IT'S ALSO UNFAIR...

TO BE ABLE TO GET PLACED RIGHT AT THE TOP OF THE LIST IS QUITE A BLESSING, AS TRAGIC AS BEING INFERTILE IS.

YOU UNDER-STAND JUST HOW MANY INFERTILE WOMEN THERE ARE WAITLISTED FOR THOSE VERY FEW ARTIFICAL WOMBS, DON'T YOU?

...

IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THEY GET PREFER-ENTIAL PLACEMENT!

THOSE SOLDIERS... GAVE THEIR BODIES TO DEFEND HAST!

DIRECTOR.

My, it's been a while since you made a private call to me, Dr. Nichols.

Yes, this is the research facility hotline.

CONNECT ME TO THE TRANSFER DIRECTOR.

Right away, ma'am.

ANY PROGRESS ON THE MECHANIZATION OF THE TRANSFER PROCESS?

IT'S BEEN A FEW YEARS SINCE I LAST HEARD ANY DEVELOPMENTS.

...OH, THAT?

NONE AT ALL, UNFORTUNATELY.

IT'S JUST.. I RECALLED WHAT YOU SAID TO ME LONG AGO.

ABOUT HOW THIS WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE. THAT THIS SITUATION WOULD BE ENDED ONCE WE MADE ENOUGH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS...

WELL?

SO WHAT'RE YOU ASKING THIS OUT OF THE BLUE FOR?

REALLY...?

YES, REALLY.

WHAT REASON WOULD I HAVE TO HIDE ITS PROGRESS TO THE TRANSFER CORPS?

AM I WRONG?

WHILE ARTIFICIAL WOMBS ARE USED TO RAISE HUMANS...

THIS SAD SITUATION WHERE HUMAN WOMBS ARE USED TO RAISE THE INHUMAN,

……

ANOTHER HYSTERECTOMY, I ASSUME?

NOT LIKE YOU TO SAY SOME-THING SO WEAK AND DISPIR-ITED.

...OH, I SEE.

FORGIVE ME THEN.

...

WE'VE LONG SINCE SUCCEEDED AT NURTURING THE TRANSFER ORGAN ARTIFICIALLY.

BUT IT SIMPLY WON'T FLY,

LET ALONE EVEN ENTER THE COORDINATE SPACE...

OF COURSE, FROM ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW,

THIS FAILURE HAS BEEN A BLESSING IN DISGUISE IN SOME WAYS.

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN CIRCUMVENT ALL THE MORALISTIC SLANDER THEY'VE SPOUTED, ABOUT THE DEFILEMENT OF MOTHER-HOOD.

WHY

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE SECONDS ARE BUSY WORKING NIGHT AND DAY, ON MECH-ANIZING THE TRANSFER PROCESS TOO.

THE CURRENT SITUATION WHERE OUR TRANSFER SOLDIERS WITH THEIR NATURAL WOMBS CAN MONOPOLIZE THIS TECHNOLOGY, HAS BEEN QUITE FORTUNATE FOR US...

THEN IT'S ONLY INEVIT-ABLE THAT THEY WOULD UNLOCK THE SECRETS TO DOING SO AS WELL EVENTUALLY. THUS, AS SAD AS IT MAY BE, SO IF WE WERE TO EVER SUCCEED AT MECHANIZING IT FIRST,

16

HA.

YOU'D LOSE YOUR CURRENT POST, AND IMPORT-ANCE, WOULDN'T YOU?

IF A "TRANSFER MACHINE" WERE EVER REALLY DEVELOPED, BESIDES,

.....

BEFORE YOU RECRUITED ME...

BACK TO WORKING AS A REGULAR OBSTETRICIAN...

NOT A BIG DEAL.

I'D JUST RETURN TO THE JOB I USED TO DO 15 YEARS AGO.

EXCUSE ME.

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO ATTEND TO THE CHECK-UPS.

17

REPORTING AT 36 WEEKS, DOCTOR!

SQUAD 3 LEADER ANELLI,

BEEP

YES, GOOD TO SEE YOU.

MAKE YOURSELF COMFORT-ABLE.

カン

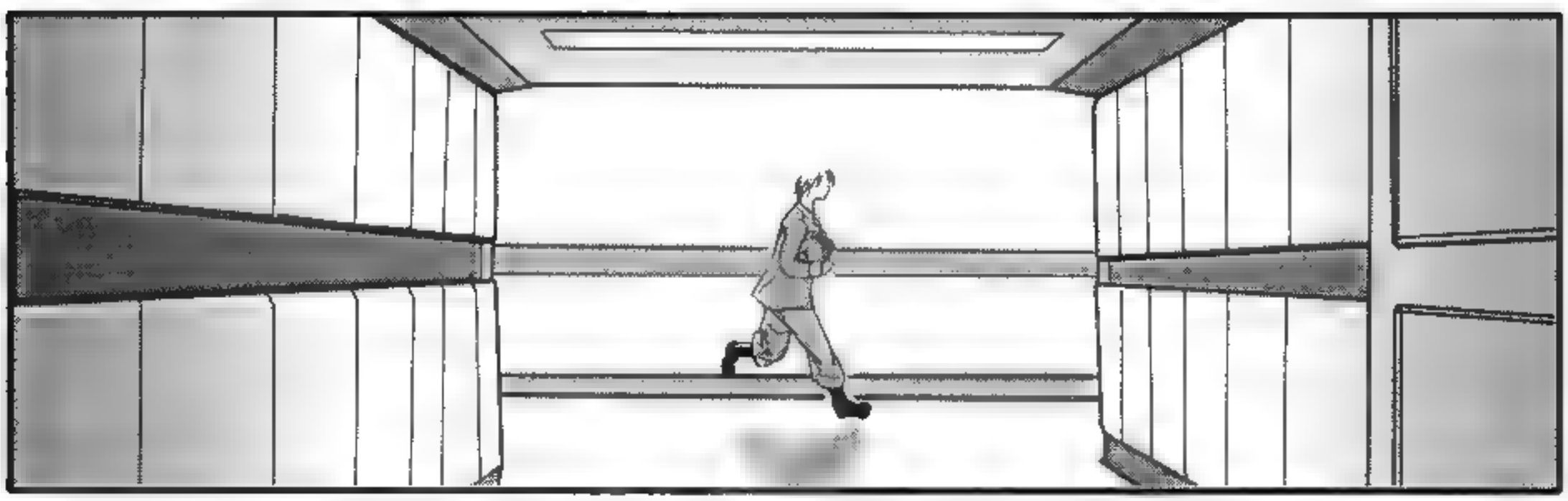
I STILL DO WISH WE COULD REALIZE A WORKING, "TRANSFER MACHINE."

I WISH THE SAME AS YOU...

DR. NICHOLS.

AT THE VERY LEAST, WE NEED TO MAKE SOME SORT OF PROGRESS ON IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

EVEN IF HERMAN WERE TO BE REPLACED...
BUT THERE'S STILL THAT PROBLEM...



MANA!

APPARENTLY, SHE TRIED TO SNEAK OUT SOME EQUIPMENT DURING A MISSION.

SPECIFICALLY, SOME HEMOSTATIC NANOMACHINE KITS.

W... WHAT? WHY?

←Nicknamed her "nurse"

IT'S NURSE!

NURSE GOT ARRESTED!

THOSE THINGS!? BUT WHY...!?

!

YOU'RE WRONG.

SO SHE'S A SPY, THEN.

ALWAYS SAYING CRAP TO DEMORALIZE US...

I SUSPECTED IT ALL ALONG.

BACK WHEN I WAS IN NURSING SCHOOL,

THERE WERE RUMOURS ABOUT EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE HEMOSTATIC KITS ONLY THE MILITARY HAD.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THERE ARE PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE MILITARY WHO NEEDED IT...

MP

JUST PACK YOUR STUFF ALREADY!

IT'S THOSE PEOPLE WHO NEED THOSE KITS...

THERE ARE CIVILIANS WHO DIE FROM PLACENTAL ABRUPTIONS, YOU KNOW.

EVEN MORE THAN US...

OWW!

YOU THINK IT'S FINE FOR SOLDIERS LIKE CORPORAL ELLISON TO JUST DIE!?

MANA!

WHAT!?

SO WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO SAY!?

NURSE!

WHAT'S THIS FUSS ABOUT!? STOP IT!

SHUT UP!

CALM DOWN, MANA!

YOU CAN DIE ALONE OUT THERE FOR ALL I CARE!

I'D NEVER RISK MY LIFE IN BATTLE WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU!

ONCE THE WAR'S OVER,
THOSE KIT'S AND OTHERS WILL ALL BE AVAILBLE FOR CIVILIANS.
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS WIN THE WAR!
.....
OUR DUTY IS TO MAKE THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY WINNING.
AM I WRONG?

WAR IS A PRIME MOVER OF TECHNO-LOGICAL PROGRESS.

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY.

SO, UHH...

YOU THINK THERE'S A LOT OF HI-TECH STUFF IN THE MILITARY THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC DOESN'T HAVE YET?

ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?

EVEN THE VERY SPACECRAFT THAT OUR ANCESTORS CAME TO THIS PLANET ON,

WAS BORN OUT OF A PLAN FOR A NEW MILITARY SPACECRAFT.

24

OH.

SO IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE, HUH.

IS THAT REALLY HOW IT IS?

YES, IT'S COMMON KNOW-LEDGE.

ABOUT WHAT?

MAYBE I'LL ASK THE DOCTOR NEXT TIME.

OH, NEVER YOU MIND...

.....

LET'S GO, MANA!

.....

25

ALL OF US CONTINUE TO FIGHT WITH THAT IN MIND.

"ONCE THE WAR IS OVER, WE'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE EVEN BETTER THAN BEFORE."

BUT I'VE MANAGED TO SURVIVE SAFELY SO FAR. SO DON'T WORRY YOURSELF SICK OVER ME, MOM.

I'VE BEEN THROUGH SOME SCARY THINGS,

I'm including the photo from her sacral ceremony. Doesn't she look lovely?

I sent off your laced veil to the daughter of your friend as you asked me to do.

AHH!

A LETTER BACK FROM MOM!

Laro is...

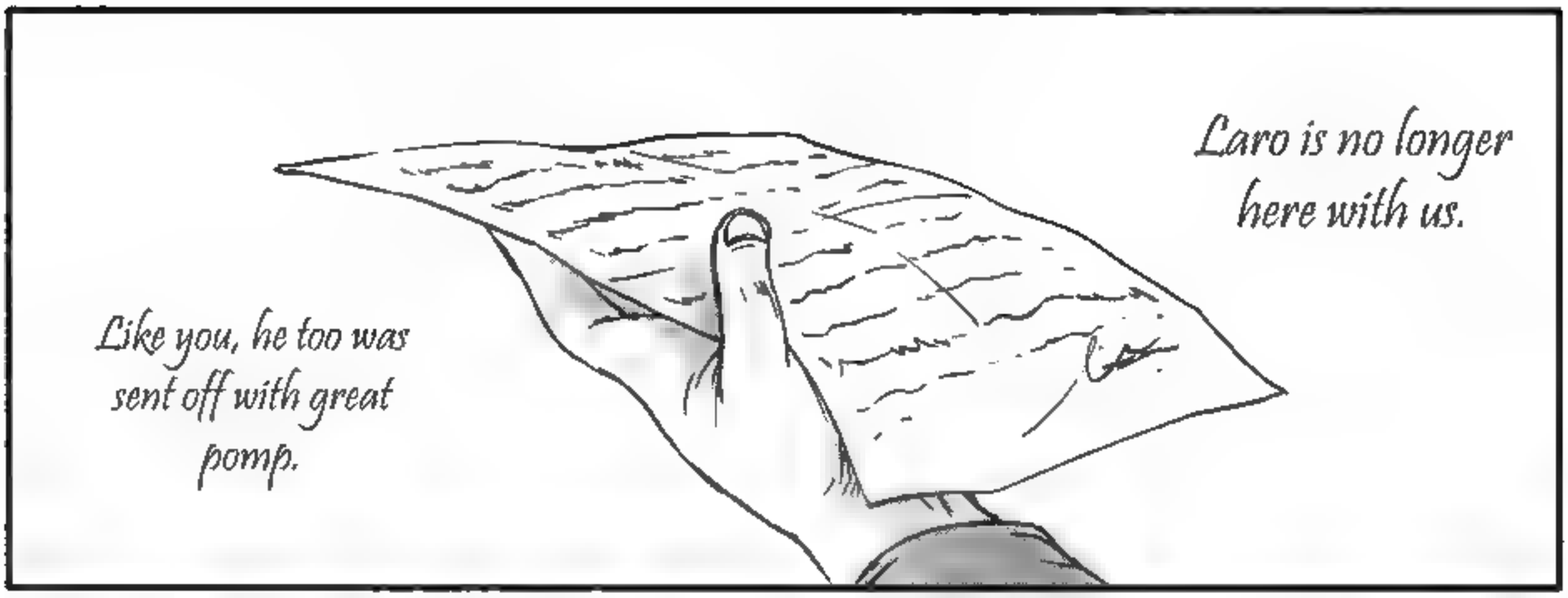
LARO? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

So I instead asked a member in my Widow's Union to deliver the veil.

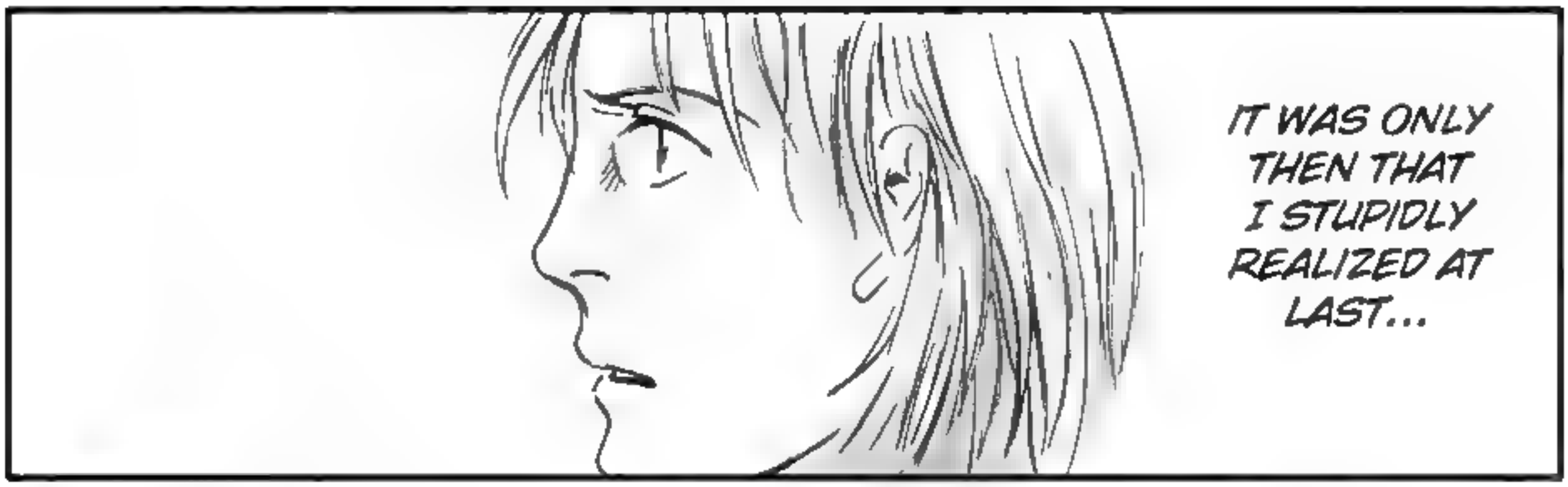
You'd be surprised how tight we members are in our Widow's Union.

I SHOULD SHOW THIS TO MARIA LATER.

Laro wasn't available,


Laro is no longer here with us.
Like you, he too was sent off with great pomp.

I hope that you can help him if you see him on the battlefield.
You two have been friends since childhood, after all.


IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT I STUPIDLY REALIZED AT LAST...

WHEN HE HEARD THAT I'D BEEN DRAFTED.
JUST HOW EXACTLY LARO MUST HAVE FELT.

Mama. Laro. I'm very proud of you both.
Take good care of yourselves and fight for the sake of Hast and our planet.
-Love, Mother-

CHAPTER 16 DECISION [15 WEEKS]

YOU'VE GOT TALENT.

TALENT TO BE A "COLONIST."

MORGAN.

I'LL DO MY BEST TO COLONIZE AS MANY POINTS AS POSSIBLE FOR THE TRANSFER CORPS!

THANK YOU, SERGEANT.

I...

PLEASE LET ME GO, SERGEANT.

SERGEANT.

SERGEANT.

.....

YOU'RE MENTALLY INCOHERENT, MORGAN.

EVEN IF THE 40 WEEKS ARE UP, PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS CHILD AWAY FROM ME.

THAT'S ALL I ASK, SERGEANT.

I JUST WANT TO PROTECT HIM.

AFTER 80 WEEKS, IT'LL ONLY BE AN EVEN LARGER TRANSFER ORGAN.

YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND IT, AND NEITHER WILL IT UNDERSTAND YOU.

AND IT'LL DIE.

JUST 80 WEEKS...

IF YOU HAVE TO REMOVE THIS CHILD NO MATTER WHAT, THEN PLEASE AT LEAST TRANSFER IT INTO AN ARTIFICIAL WOMB...

AFTER 80 WEEKS...

AS LONG AS IT CAN LIVE..

THAT'S FINE.

AS IF!

YOU ABANDONED YOUR COMRADES FOR YOUR DELUSIONS.

SO DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH YOU!

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE CAN UNDER-STAND, CAN'T YOU, SERGEANT?

AFTER ALL, WASN'T IT THE SAME FOR YOU TOO?

NO, WE ARE THE SAME. BECAUSE-

HEY!

MORGAN!

STOP, MORGAN!

I SHOULD BITE THE BULLET AND FINALLY TELL LT. COLONEL SALILA ABOUT IT.

MORE CONFUSING IS THE FACT THAT HER ODDITIES HAVE ALL BEEN IGNORED BY THEM.

THERE'S TOO MANY ODD POINTS ABOUT HER.

I HAD THOUGHT I SHOULD LEAVE OGA OUT OF IT...

NO MATTER WHAT THE SUPERIORS WANT,

!

THEY CAN KISS MY ASS BEFORE I'D EVEN CONSIDER GOING THROUGH THAT A SECOND TIME. .

DO THEY JUST NOT CARE ABOUT THE CONSE-QUENCES? PERHAPS THEY THINK THEY CAN ALWAYS ASK ME TO CLEAN UP THEIR MESS...

6

Launch fighters at once!

Transfer Corps should-

Enemy aircrafts have penetrated the defensive perimeter! Enemy aerial bombardment on Virgin Forest's Northern Base!

ALERT!

ALERT!

All Transfer Corps troops are to put on their transfer bears!

All Transfer Corps troops are to put on their transfer bears!

!

YOU'LL HELP WITH THE EVAC OPERATION FOR THE BASE THAT WAS HIT DURING THEIR MOONFALL.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, SIR...?

I'VE BEEN TOLD THEIR MEDICAL FACILITIES ARE SEVERELY DAMAGED.

WEEK 36'ERS! FORM UP A GROUP WITH ME!

WE'LL ENTER TRANSFER CHAMBER #1 NEXT!

CLEAR THE WAY!

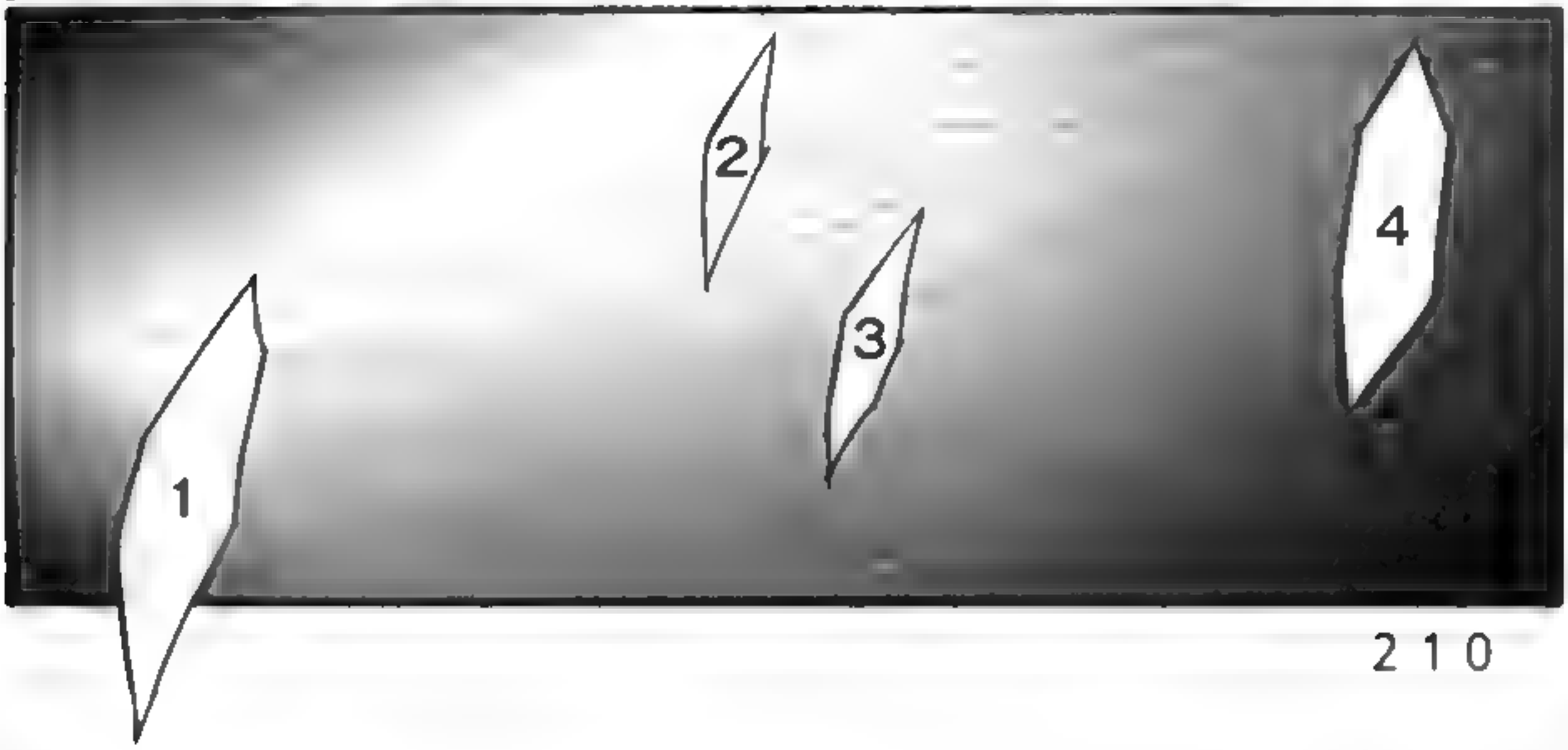
It

HANG IN THERE, NED!

WHERE'RE OUR SAMs? WHAT'S OUR HEAVILY EQUIPPED FIGHTERS DOING?

WHAT'S GOING-

WE'RE LOSING AIR SUPERIORITY, THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON.



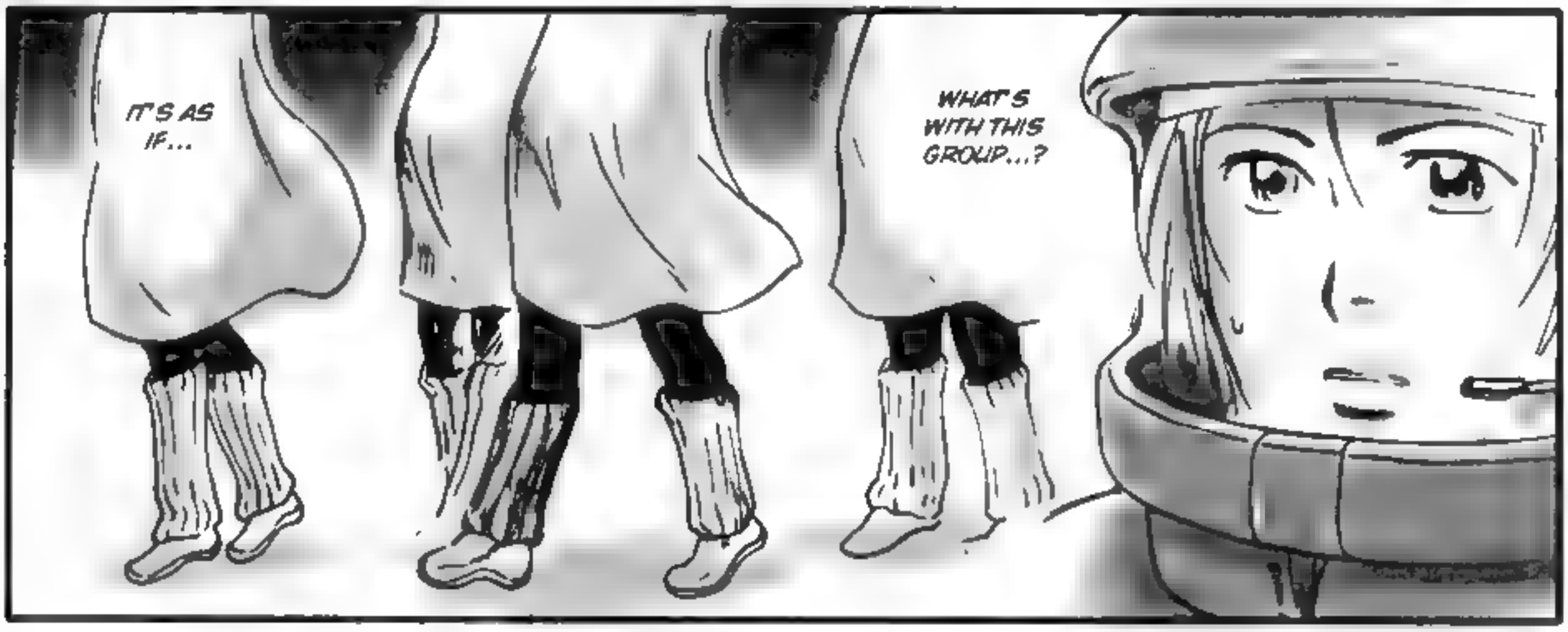
!
Alright, we're here!
Hurry!
BUMP
BUMP
ARE THEY PLANNING ON OBLITERATING THIS BASE FOR GOOD!?
BUMP
WHAT I'D GIVE TO TEAR 'EM TO SHREDS IN AN AAT OPERATION!
BUMP
BUMP
SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S STILL A FEW MORE GIFTS THE ENEMIES AIRDROPPED FOR US.
.....!?
DON'T LET YOUR GUARDS DOWN EVEN AFTER WE TRANSFER THE WOUNDED.

The wounded

?

ARE THEY TRANSFER TROOPS...?
THEY MUST BE...

BECAUSE I SAID SO! THAT'S AN ORDER!
WHY'S THAT, CORPORAL?
DON'T LOOK AT 'EM.


IT'S AS IF...
WHAT'S WITH THIS GROUP...?

RIGHT, WE'LL GET YOU OUT AT ONCE.

ASSUME FORMATI-

NO NEED TO TELL US. WE KNOW WHICH FORMATION. THESE GIRLS ARE TRANSFER TROOPS TOO, YOU KNOW.

TRANSFER US OUT AT ONCE!

THEY'VE BEEN BOMBING US STRAIGHT SINCE YESTERDAY. THIS BASE HAS SUSTAINED TOO MUCH DAMAGE.

AGHH-

GOOD, THEN LET'S MOVE!

Hmph

DR. LIN!

Y-YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST GIVEN US A SECOND'S WARNING BEFORE YOU JUMPED ..

WHAT WAS WITH THAT ROUGH JUMP!?

WHAT-EVER.

NO ONE GOT LEFT BEHIND, RIGHT? SO DON'T COMPLAIN.

WELL, DR. LIN?

DIDN'T YOU PROMISE ME TO NEVER COME IN CONTACT WITH MY SQUAD?

IT WAS AN EMERGENCY. WHAT OTHER OPTION DID I HAVE?

OUR STAFF WILL GUIDE YOU TO OUR MEDICAL FACILITIES.

OH?

GET EVERYONE EXAMINED THERE.

WE'LL CONFIRM A PLACE FOR YOU TO STAY AFTER THAT.

YOU'RE THE SAME AS ALWAYS.

EXCUSE ME, SGT.!

SERGEANT, WHAT KIND OF SQUAD ARE T-

GET MOVING, PRIVATE!

YOU'RE ON STANDBY FOR ANOTHER SHIFT!

I WOULDN'T WANT YOU CONTAMIN-ATING MY SQUAD HERE.

SO WE'RE NOT STAYING HERE?

NO, DOCTOR.

?

NO, AND I AM QUITE THANKFUL FOR THAT.

HOWEVER,

YOU'VE CHANGED SINCE THEN.

IT WAS ME WHO CURED YOUR PTSD AND MADE YOU COMBAT-CAPABLE AGAIN,

DID YOU FORGET?

.....

THAT'S QUITE A MOUTH YOU HAVE.

13

IN TRYING TO TREAT YOUR PTSD,

I'VE BECOME MUCH MORE "AWARE."

...YES,

I DID CHANGE. CHANGED FOR THE BETTER.

.....

I'LL BE HAPPY TO TAKE CARE OF ANY GIRL YOU HAVE TROUBLE HANDLING ANYTIME.
I CAN CONTROL THEM QUITE WELL.

BUT THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN.
I DON'T HAVE ANY SUCH GIRLS AT THE MOMENT.

TRANSFER TROOPS INCENSIVE LOUNGE AREA
UGHHH, THAT REALLY GETS ON MY NERVES!
THEY'RE TRANSFER TROOPS FOR GOD'S SAKE! BUT WE STILL HAD TO HAUL THEIR ASSES BECAUSE THEY WERE TOO "STRESSED!?"
AFTER MISSION
WITHIN ONLY!

BUT THEY'VE RECENTLY MADE SOME PROGRESS,

AND MANAGED TO INCREASE THEIR FUNDING AND PERSONNEL.

BUT I HEARD THEY'VE EXISTED FOR A FEW YEARS.

THEY'VE BEEN PRETTY RUBBISH AT FLYING,

I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS.

SO WHAT WAS THE DEAL WITH THAT GROUP?

IN FACT, IT SEEMS THEY CAN'T FLY ANYWHERE DANGEROUS.

THEY DON'T FLY TO ANYWHERE DANGEROUS.

OH?

BUT THEY STILL ONLY DO SAFE WORK LIKE MOVING SUPPLIES WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

IT'S ANNOYING ENOUGH TO HAVE CAUSED FIGHTS BEFORE. THAT'S WHY WE'RE SUPPOSED TO AVERT OUR GAZES.

BUT THE WAY THEY LOOK AT US... IT'S AS IF THEY THINK *WE'RE* THE IDIOTS HERE.

IN ANY CASE, THEY'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAYS TO GO BEFORE THEY'RE EVEN ON THE SAME LEVEL AS US.

WHAT! THAT'S SO UNFAIR!

THAT'S WHY WE USUALLY DON'T CROSS PATHS WITH THEM.

AND THEY EVENTUALLY FOUND ANOTHER BASE TO RELOCATE TO.

AFTERWARDS, THEIR GROUP WAS KEPT ON A SEPARATE SCHEDULE FROM US,

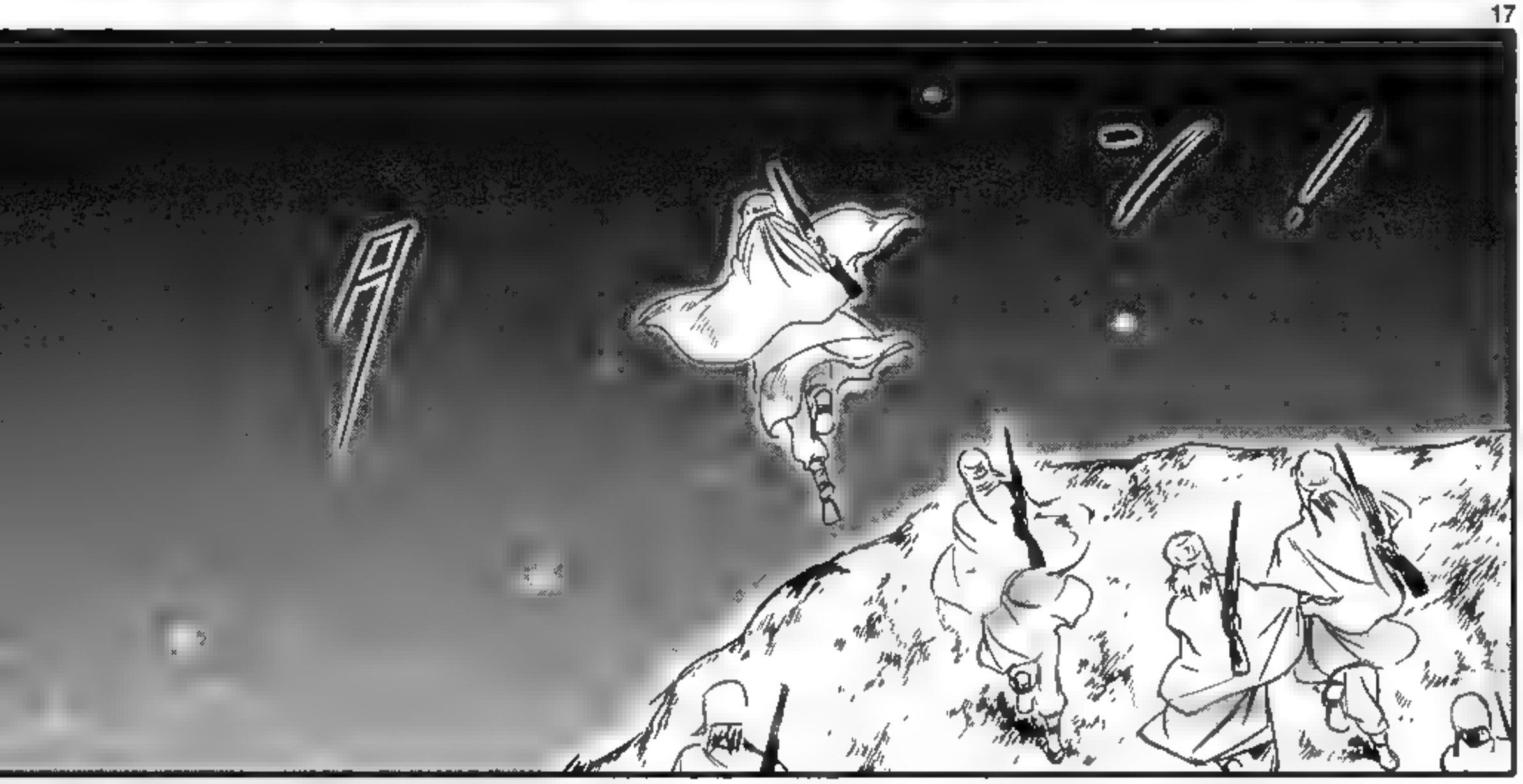
I NEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD MEET AGAIN...

I SOON FORGOT ALL ABOUT THEIR EXISTENCE.

WHILE I COULDN'T HELP FEEL A LITTLE JEALOUS.

THAT THOSE GIRLS WOULD FINISH THEIR MILITARY SERVICE WITHOUT EVER SEEING REAL DANGER.

YES, CHIEF.
LET'S GO.



19

18

AND THEN THERE'S "CRIMSON."

THE GREEN PARTS CLUMPED TOGETHER IS "EMERALD."

WE'VE SHAVED OFF QUITE A BIT OF ITS TERRITORY.

IT'S STRONG IN THE ISLANDS.

THE PARTS DOTTED WITH BLUE SPOTS IS THE DOMAIN OF "BLUE SEA"

IT'S BEEN PUSHED BACK TO THE EDGE OF THE EASTERN CONTINENT.

THE PARTS SHINING WHITE BELONGS TO "PEARL."

SO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ANY TERRITORIAL CHANGES.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO NIEBASS TRIBES "CRIMSON" AND "PEARL" IS CHANGING BIT BY BIT.

THE CRIMSON TRIBE BOASTS ITSELF AS THE STRONGEST TRIBE.

IN THE FORESTS... AS WELL AS IN THE COORDINATE SPACE,

ITS DOMAIN HAS BEEN MUCH REDUCED BY ALL THE TERRAFORMING AND THE SECOND'S INVASION.

WE CAN'T TOUCH IT.

THAT ONE'S PERSONALLY GUARDED BY CRIMSON'S BOSS.

RIGHT,

EVEN AN ACCESS POINT TO THE SECOND'S NEW CAPITAL! OH, I'D LOVE THAT ONE!

THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF ACCESS POINTS IT CONTROLS THAT THE SECONDS HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, WE'RE ALSO TOO FAR FOR THEM TO STRIKE.

IN THE "REAL PLANE," THEY CONTROL THE FORESTS AND SOME SECOND-CONTROLLED TERRITORY.

THEY'RE TOO FAR AWAY FOR OUR HAST ARMY TO STRIKE.

TRUE, WE'RE DEADLOCKED BACK ON THE REAL PLANE...

BUT HERE IN THE COORDINATE SPACE,

WE HAVE ENOUGH ODDS FOR A GAMBLE.

CHIEF!?

I'VE MANAGED TO HOLD ON THIS FAR WITH DRUGS, BUT I'M AT MY LIMIT...

MY WOMB... HAS ALREADY BEGUN CONTRACTING.

MY 4TH CYCLE IS JUST ABOUT AT ITS END NO MATTER WHAT I DO NOW.

IT'S FINE, CORPORAL MALIN.

CHIEF, NO! THE SHOCK TO YOUR BODY WILL BE-

YOUR MAKE-UP ALWAYS SHOULD BE ABOUT NOW

I'LL LEAVE EVERYTHING IN YOUR HANDS.

BUT, CHIEF...

I TAUGHT YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW

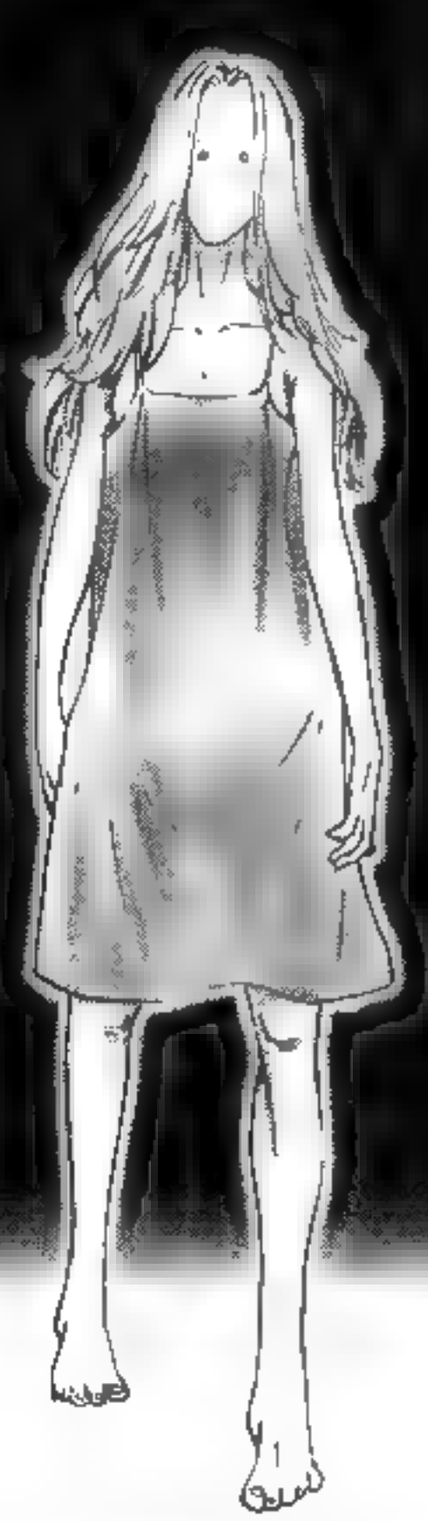
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH DOLLS.

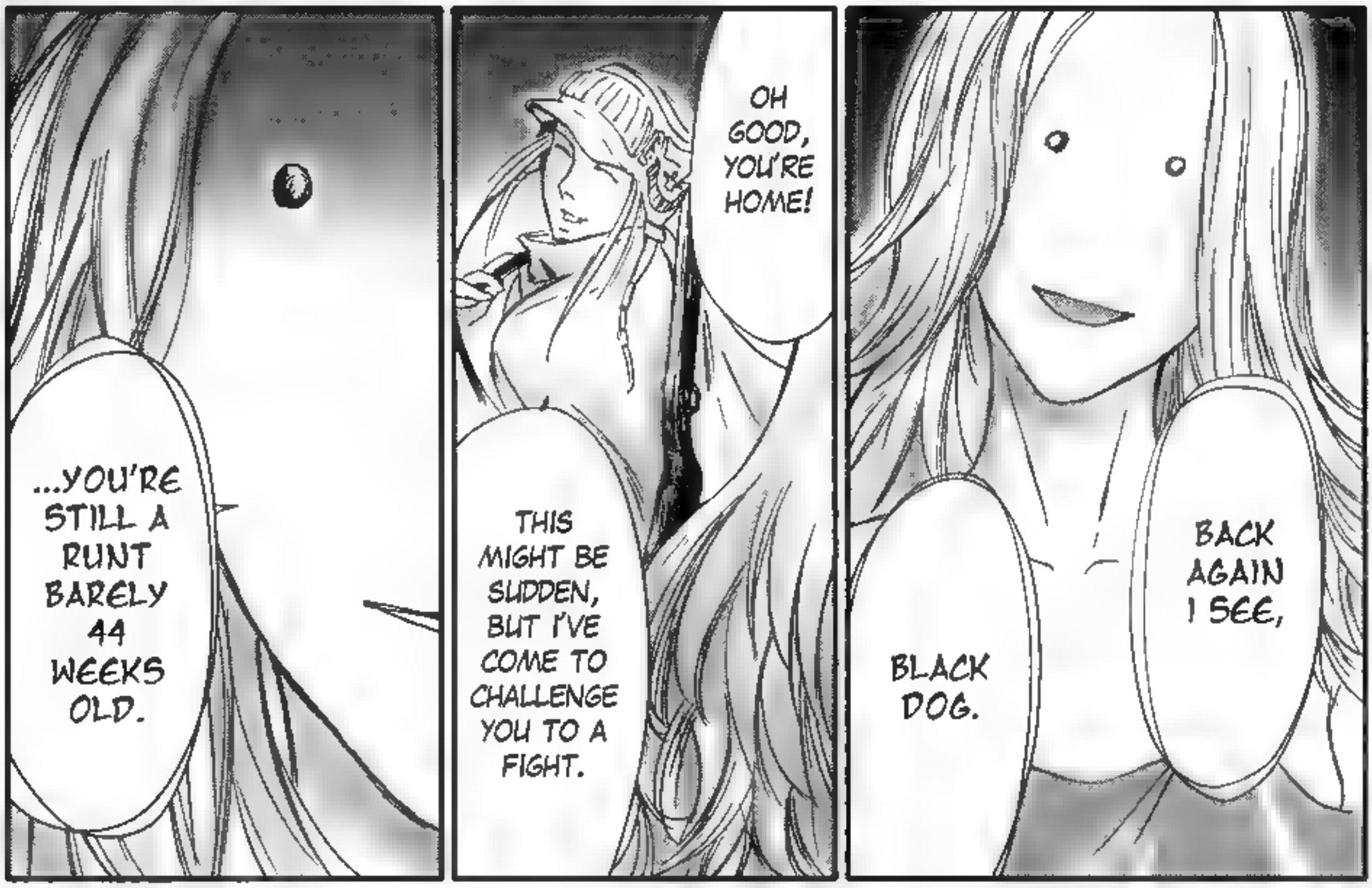
WHERE'S THE CRIMSON BOSS?

WOOSH

A PERFECT LANDING, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.

I'M RIGHT HERE.




...YOU'RE STILL A RUNT BARELY 44 WEEKS OLD.
OH GOOD, YOU'RE HOME!
THIS MIGHT BE SUDDEN, BUT I'VE COME TO CHALLENGE YOU TO A FIGHT.
BLACK DOG.
BACK AGAIN I SEE,

SO YOU GONNA FIGHT OR NOT?

AS THE BOSS, I CANNOT REFUSE A CHALLENGE.

HEY, IT WAS HARD ENOUGH ALREADY TO LAST THIS LONG.

SO COME ON ALREADY.

DID I NOT TELL YOU LAST TIME TO AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE 60 WEEKS OLD BEFORE CHALLENGING ME?

YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING.

GOOD,

THEN LET'S GET STARTED!

WHY IS IT,

THAT YOU HALT YOUR PREGNANCY AT HALF-WAY?

HOW ODD.

WHY IS IT THAT YOU BLACK DOGS,

HAVE NO ARMS, LEGS, NOR HEADS?

TELL ME.

HOW ODD, INDEED...

DR. NICHOLS.

I'LL TAKE WHATEVER HORMONE DRUGS NECESSARY! AND I'LL RETURN THERE!

WHEN... CAN I GET MY NEXT IMPLANT...?

I'LL LAST LONGER...

.....

.....

NEXT TIME,

YOU'RE SICK AND TIRED OF THE "STAY" DRILL, RIGHT?

YES, SERG-

UMM...

OGA.

YES, SERGEANT!?

I, TOO, WILL LEAVE THIS COORDIN-ATE SPACE NOT FAR FROM NOW.

THE COORDIN-ATE SPACE WITHOUT A CHIEF,

IS AN UNRELIABLE SPACE.

THAT MEANS YOU'LL BE FREELY TRAVERSING THROUGH THE COORDINATE SPACE.

YOU'LL RECEIVE TRAINING TO BECOME A "COLONIST" FROM HEREON.

KEEP THAT IN MIND.

IF YOU BETRAY MY TRUST,

I'LL BE FORCED TO HUNT YOU DOWN MYSELF AND KILL YOU.

TRANSLATED BY HOX
EDITED BY HAPPYSCANS

W O M B S — VOLUME 2 — END

SPECIAL TRANSFER CORPS DATA FILE

003

TRANSFER CORPS' DOCTORS

Employed in the medical facility at the Virgin Forest's Northern Base as doctors, nurses, and other medical practictioners. There can be no Transfer Corps without them.

Doctor Nichols

Head doctor responsible for overseeing the health of transfer soldiers from implantation until removal of the transfer organ at 40 weeks. A former obstetrician, she was recruited to become the head doctor at the Life Science Research Centre during the early phase of the Transfer Corps' establishment. She additionally oversees the orientation process for new Transfer soldier recruits. While she normally carries out her work dutifully with utmost conviction, there are also times when she feels conflicted from being situated between the research lab and soldiers risking their lives on the battlefield.

Doctor Herman

The man responsible for developing the technology to control a transfer soldier's access to the coordinate space through the injection of a nanomachine into her brain. The development of this technology has opened the door to practically deploying transfer soldiers on the actual battlefield. However, due to his refusal to comply with the wishes of his superiors to develop more extensive methods of control, he has since been demoted to an on-the-scene supervisory role.

Transfer Director

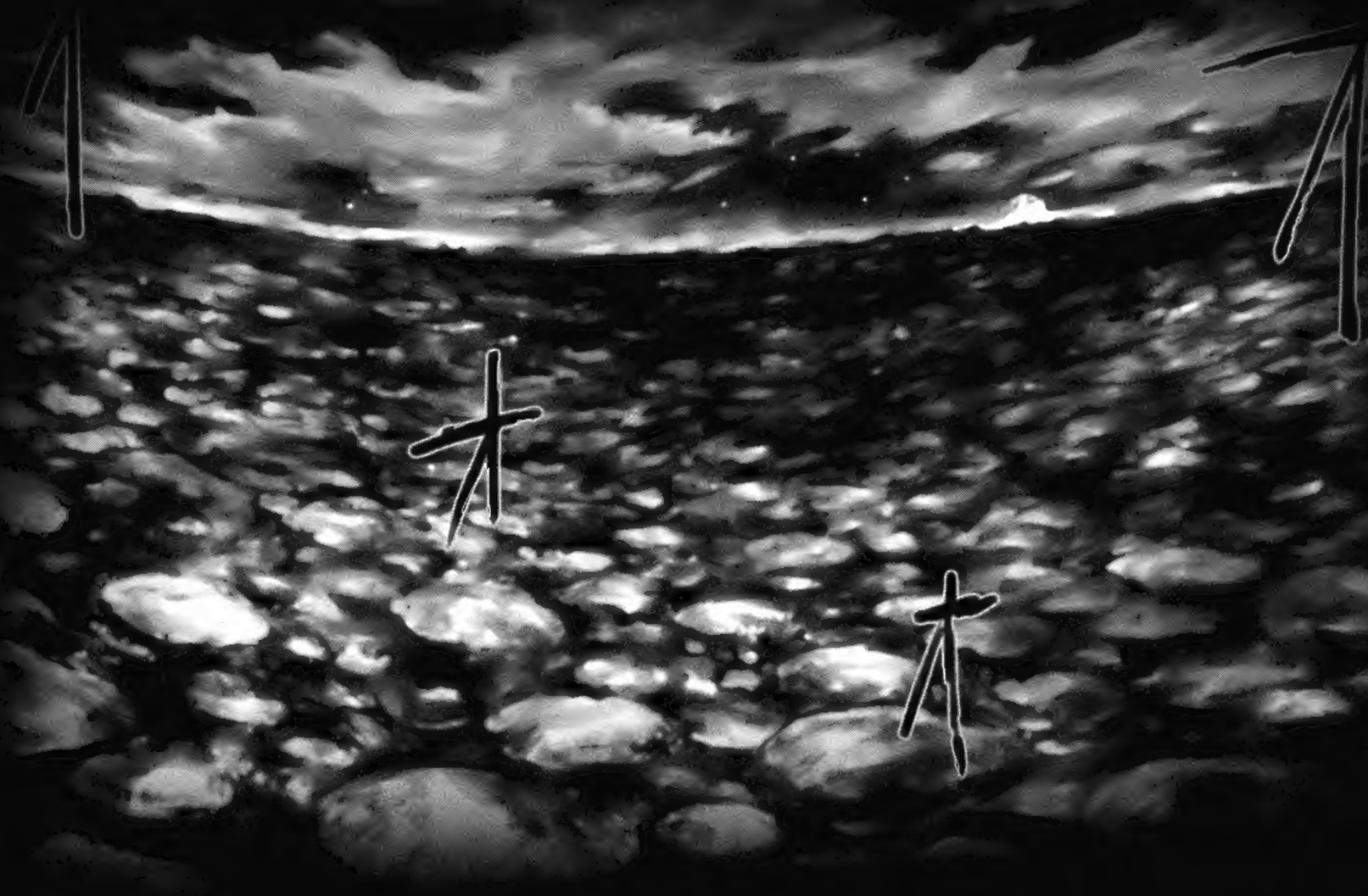
A medical researcher who has been involved since the Transfer Corps' founding. His specially assembled team of outstanding doctors and researchers helped turn the Transfer Corps project into reality. He harbours ambitions to take the transfer technology to new heights but the details are yet unclear.

National Life Science Research Centre

Research centre devoted to developing technologies for military use. It is responsible for conducting all research related to the transfer technology, such as making it easier and faster for the transfer organ to grow or increasing its capabilities via genetic manipulation. While it also conducts research related to the Niebass, it is done under a veil of utmost secrecy and is thus unknown to not only ordinary citizens, but even to many of the doctors at the research centre.

Doctor Diamond

Provides counselling for troubled transfer soldiers. As transfer soldiers exhibit symptoms unlike any other kind of patient, it is critical for counselors to have transfer soldier experience themselves.



WOMBS 第3集に続く

2011年12月 頃発売予定

初出 ― 月刊「IKKI」2010年3月号～2010年5月号、2010年7月号～2010年12月号

WOMBS vol.2 Yumiko Shirai presents 2

造本には十分注意しておりますが、落丁・乱丁（本のページの抜け落ちや順序の間違い）の場合はお取り替えいたします。
購入された書店名を明記して「制作局」あてにお送りください。送料小社負担にてお取り替えいたします。制作局（TEL:0120-336-082）
本書の一部あるいは全部を無断で複製・転載・上演・放送等をすることは、法律で認められた場合を除き、
著作者および出版者の権利の侵害となります。あらかじめ小社あて許諾をお求めください。
Ⓡ［日本複写権センター委託出版物］本書を無断で複写複製（コピー）することは、著作権法上の例外を除き禁じられています。
本書をコピーされる場合は、事前に日本複写権センター（JRRC）の許諾を受けてください。
［JRRC］ http://www.jrrc.or.jp　eメール:info@jrrc.or.jp　電話:03-3401-2382

ISBN 978-4-09-188539-5

IKKI COMIX

著者－白井弓子 ©Yumiko Shirai 2011
発行者－鈴木総一郎
発行所－株式会社小学館
〒101-8001 東京都千代田区一ツ橋2-3-1 ［電話］編集 03-3230-5146　販売 03-5281-3556
印刷所－共同印刷株式会社 Printed in Japan.

連載担当－甲賀達治
単行本編集責任－湯浅生史
単行本編集－甲賀達治
装丁－名和田耕平デザイン事務所

2011年2月2日　初版第1刷発行（検印廃止）

WOMBS ウームズ